WORLD / A25
Ex-Thai premier gets 2-year jail for conflict of interest

SPORTS / A27
Django, Alcano, 4 others march on in US Open 9-ball tilt

METRO / A23
Doctor killed inside burning car

ACROSS / A17
Cagayan de Oro shops, malls close in protest

ENTERTAINMENT / F5
DollyWood reveals naughty side of the stars

SC upholds Neri's right to silence on ZTE deal

By Norman Bordadora

IT APPEARS THAT ROMULO NERI CAN now forever hold his peace on the controversial $329-million National Broadband Network (NBN) deal between the government and China's ZTE Corp.

The Supreme Court has "ruled without

SC UPHOLDS / A10

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Wednesday, October 22, 2008 ★ 10 sections / Vol. 23 / No. 319 P18 website www.inquirer.net

YouTube plays big role in US elections

WASHINGTON—When John McCain's bid for the Republican presidential nomination was in the doldrums last year—short on cash and with top aides

YOUTUBE / A10

Higher Meralco rates approved

But ERC orders firm to refund customers ₱3.9B

A MERALCO lineman inspects electric meters of low-income households along Agham Road in Quezon City

By Abigail L. Ho

CUSTOMERS OF MANILA ELECTRIC Co. will see their monthly bills rise by an average of 14 centavos per kilowatt-hour (kWh), following the approval of the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) of new distribution, supply and metering charges for the power distributor.

Meralco customers, however, will not feel the full impact of the rate increase as the ERC also issued an order directing the distribution utility to refund ₱5.9 billion in overcharges.

Because the various customer classes pay different rates, the refund does not mean that it will offset the additional charges.

"If we are to be true to our mandate of promoting the customers' long-term interest, we have to make these really very difficult decisions but see to it that the customers enjoy the electric service that they deserve and pay for," ERC Di-

HIGHER / A9

Ex-cop fails to explain cash

GMA backs ₱1-M deposit insurance

By TJ Burgonio

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARroyo is supporting a proposal to increase the deposit insurance coverage to ₱1 million to shield depositors from possible bank closures arising from the global financial turmoil.

While the country's financial system is stable, the President feels that this is "a proportionate response" to the global financial uncertainties, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said yesterday.

A growing number of banks and financial institutions in the United States and Europe have collapsed because of their huge exposures to subprime mortgages. Some banks, considered too big to fail, have been rescued by their respective governments.

To calm and protect jittery depositors and avoid bank runs, several European and Asian countries have increased their deposit insurance coverage.

(See list on Page A21.)

GMA BACKS / A11

Gov'ts take more bold moves to ease crisis

LONDON—GOVERNMENTS across the globe stepped up efforts to keep credit flowing and ward off a financial meltdown, lifting hopes in major stock markets that the worst of the global crisis may be over.

In the United States, Federal Reserve Chair Ben Bernanke on Monday pushed for more government spending as a follow-up measure to boost the world's biggest economy out of the doldrums. Without the fresh dose of economic stimulants like pouring more money in Americans' pockets, the US central bank chief warned the slump could drag on.

To prevent systemic meltdowns in various corners of the globe, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) stood ready to provide multibillion-dollar rescue packages to Pakistan, Iceland, Ukraine and other financial-trouble spots.

In France, shares in top banks rose sharply on Tuesday after the government said it would lend 10.5 billion euros ($14.1 billion) to boost their capital reserves. Paris last week earmarked 360 billion euros ($482.4 billion) as part of an international effort to help banks survive the worst crisis since the Great Depression in the 1930s.

In Japan, Economics Minister Kaoru Yosano said the government was ready for a broader

GOV'TS TAKE / A8

INTO THE EYE OF THE STORM Former PNP comptroller Eliseo de la Paz arrives in Manila on Tuesday and later faces media to answer questions on why he had 196,000 euros in Moscow.

De la Paz says sorry for fiasco in Moscow

By Tarra Quismundo

FOUR HOURS AFTER RETURNing from Russia, where he had been found carrying cash in excess of the legal limit and barred from taking a flight home, former Philippine National Police comptroller Eliseo de la Paz faced the media but left the big questions unanswered.

And it was made clear for the first time that the P6.9-million cash advance De la Paz carried to Russia as disbursing officer of a police delegation that attended the 77th Interpol General Assembly was on top of the P2.3-million travel allowance that the PNP had declared, and that its oversight body, the National Police Commission (Napolcom), had approved.

Napolcom had earlier wondered why the P6.9 million was not declared to it.

In a 15-minute press conference yesterday afternoon at an Edsa restaurant, De la Paz said the P6.9 million had come from PNP coffers.

He also said he had served "faithfully and honestly" in the PNP.

"As police comptroller and special disbursing officer of the top-level Philippine delegation ... I took out from my P50-million cash advance bonded authority the amount of P6.93 million, which I converted

EX-COP / A20

Filipino in Hanoi: A people uncowed by US bombs

THE AUTHOR. Amanda Osmeña, stands beside a bomb crater during a visit to then North Vietnam in 1967.

(Editors' Note: Inquirer columnist Amanda Osmeña's diaries, guided service as a foreign correspondent forms the backbone of the first volume of his reminiscences, "Hi-ya Asia to Uplinsad: A Memoir of Front-Line Reporting." In this string of excerpts from the chapters on North Vietnam, he details scenes from a country under intense US bombardment in 1967. "Hi-ya Asia to Uplinsad," an Inquirer book, will be launched tomorrow, Oct. 23.)

(Second of three parts)

ONE AFTERNOON, WHILE strolling down the street around Hanoi's beautiful Lake of the Restored Sword [Petit Lak during the French colonial period], considered the city center, I was caught in a raid signal. I observed how the people reacted to the raids. I thought they were a little too careless and self-confident. People shunned the streets calmly—no panic at all. They merely sat on the edge of the sidewalks looking disgruntled, as though waiting for the bombs to fall before they jumped in. Alerts usually lasted 15 to 20 minutes, and after the all-clear siren had sounded, people reappeared in the streets just as calmly as they had disappeared.

In my hotel, pretty Vietnamese reception clerks, bartenders, and waitresses trained former militia fighters at the sound of the alert. They removed their aprons, posed

FILIPINO / A10

BRAVING ROUGH SKIES

Upgrade of airports' rating seen in 2009

By Tarra Quismundo

(First of three parts)

THE PHILIPPINES MAY HAVE to wait until next year to free itself of the stigma of noncompliance with global standards in air safety.

Nine months after the US Federal Aviation Administration rated the country's air safety system below international standards, the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP)—formerly the Air Transportation Office (ATO)—has yet to complete the FAA's safety compliance checklist to qualify for an upgrade.

i-TEAM Report
Fernando del Mundo
Chief

Under its International Aviation Safety Assessment program, the FAA downgraded the Philippines from a Category 1 to a Category 2 country in its rigid pass-fail scale because of air safety regulations, practices and personnel that fell below the standards of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

The Philippines could only re-

UPGRADE / A19

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Happy and Mostar will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

Metro Manila	Partly cloudy	Batanes/Babuyan	Mostly cloudy
Baguio	Partly cloudy	Aparri	Mostly cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly cloudy	Tuguegarao	Mostly cloudy
Laoag	Partly cloudy	Tacloban	Mostly cloudy
Clark/Subic	Partly cloudy	San Jose/Mamburao	Mostly cloudy
Legazpi	Partly cloudy	Virac	Mostly cloudy
Iloilo	Partly cloudy	Cuyo	Mostly cloudy
Cebu	Partly cloudy	Tuguegarao/Baler	Mostly cloudy
Dumaguete	Partly cloudy	Aparri	Mostly cloudy

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Second FRONTPAGE

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Senate set to subpoena Jocjoc anew

Palace says it will not block probes when Bolante comes home

By Alexis Pupa, Michael Lim Ubac and TJ Burgonio

WITH THE NEWS THAT FORMER AGRICULture Undersecretary Jocelyn "Jocjoc" Bolante could be deported to Manila at anytime, the Senate is preparing to subpoena him to a new public inquiry into the alleged P728-million fertilizer fund scam.

Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano, chair of the Senate blue ribbon committee, said he would issue another subpoena for Bolante in case there was a question on the validity of the one it issued three years ago.

Cayetano said his committee would initiate a public hearing in room as Bolante arrives to ask him to explain his reported diversion of the fertilizer fund to political allies and supporters of President Macapagal-Arroyo shortly before the 2004 elections.

In Malacañang, Press Secretary Jesus Dureza said the Palace would not intervene or attempt to stop the Ombudsman or the Senate from probing Bolante's role in the fertilizer scam.

"The Palace will not put a gag [down] to any step of these. Let all of these investigations proceed as they should," Dureza told reporters in a briefing.

Dureza denied speculations that Malacañang was planning to shield Bolante from any interviews and inquiries.

Too suspicious

"You're too suspicious of a government cover-up," he told reporters. "The government is there to provide all the necessary assistance so that the investigations can proceed."

But Dureza penalized aloof who investigating agencies had not yet filed a case against Bolante.

"Don't (they) have any other witnesses (but) they can put on the witness stand?"

University of the Philippines law professor Harry Roque, who filed an amicus brief opposing Bolante's asylum bid, said Bolante could be deported in "anytime."

Bolante, who fled in the US in 2006 to escape the Senate hearing is currently being held at the Kenosha County Detention Center in Wisconsin awaiting the outcome of his last appeal to stop his deportation.

The US Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals in August junked Bolante's petition for asylum and ruled that there was no reason to delay his deportation. The court said Bolante failed to prove he was being persecuted in the Philippines. His visa had been canceled.

He is the database

Sen. Manuel Villar has written US Ambassador Kristie Kenney to request that Bolante be deported straight to Manila, and not to his port of origin, which was Hong Kong, should the US court deny his asylum bid with finality.

Cayetano said Bolante "has been rigged as the man behind the whole scam. He knows how it was done, who benefited, and whether it stops with him or someone higher. Who ordered him? (Or were a conspirer, he's the database."

"Still he cooperate or not is another matter considering that he tried to flee years ago. Even his return is not voluntary," said Cayetano.

The Office of the Ombudsman had also said it was going to file graft charges against Bolante but it was learned yesterday that there had been no new developments on that regard.

No need to wait

Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio in a phone interview with the Inquirer, said he had yet to receive the case or see the evidence against Bolante from the Ombudsman.

Villa-Ignacio said the Ombudsman could file a case even before Bolante returned.

"There is no need to wait for him to come home if there is strong evidence against him, we can proceed with the filing of the case," said Villa-Ignacio.

Assume good faith

When asked why it was taking so long for the Office of the Ombudsman to file a case against Bolante, Villa-Ignacio said "I don't know."

"They (the Office of the Ombudsman) have absolute control. So I cannot speculate. But let's assume there is good faith on their part," said Villa-Ignacio.

He also said that if he were to "investigate" the Bolante case, he would "have filed the information in the Sandiganbayan earlier."

"If we wait for him to come home before filing a case, it could take a year for the case to start," he said, adding that Bolante could ask for a preliminary investigation.

If a case had been filed in the Sandiganbayan, time would be saved, he said. "It is up to the Sandiganbayan if a preliminary investigation is needed. It can order one finished within 60 days, in some cases 30 days."

Not sitting on case

The Inquirer tried to get a comment from Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez but was informed she was in a meeting.

In Sequoyah, Cayetano told Palace reporters that Bolante should come home and face the allegations against him.

Gutierrez also denied the criticism her office was sitting on Bolante's case, saying that her office was probing the case and that her investigators were looking into the matter.

She said she would not hesitate to file a case against Bolante, who is said to be close to the President's husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, if there was any evidence.

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GMA to take crisis proposal to China

By Christian V. Esguerra

UNFAZED BY THE RECENT gaffe, President Macapagal-Arroyo will fly to Beijing tomorrow to take her proposal for a regional defense mechanism against the global financial crisis to orientation of Southeast Asian Nation (Asean) leaders.

The President is also going on the country's "super subsidiary" to find a niche for Philippine exports of electronics, auto parts and tobacco in the Chinese market, according to Press Secretary Jesus Dureza.

Ms. Arroyo will be attending the 7th Asia-Europe Meeting (Asem) a week after she had relationship announced that the World Bank had committed to infusing $10 billion into a Philippine proposal to put up a regional fund facility to help Asean countries experiencing liquidity problems, called the "Asean Preparedness Plan."

The plan would work like a multilateral scheme—involving Asean and its Asean+3 dialogue partners—the $84 billion Asean bilateral swap arrangement under the Chiang Mai Initiative, which was established to provide an emergency fund to countries affected by the Asian financial crisis of 1997.

Malacañang later clarified that the $10 billion was to come from the International Monetary Fund, not the World Bank. But even the IMF said that while it supported the proposal, it was not necessarily infusing $10 billion into a regional crisis facility.

Asked if the blunder affected Ms. Arroyo's credibility going to the Asem, Dureza said, "She will keep on with her leadership as one of the countries in the Asean will be provided with some kind of preparedness plans for any eventuality."

Dureza said the proposal had to be received "positive response" from Japan and South Korea which, with China, make up the so-called Asean+3 dialogue partners of the regional association.

Ms. Arroyo yesterday drew her "strong support" behind the proposal for a summit of world leaders to tackle the global financial turmoil, noting that "there is much that can be done by the countries in Southeast Asia on their."

"This global summit would complement the efforts of the Philippines and others to gather consensus among the different regional groups on ways to deal with the financial crisis," the Press Secretary Jesus Dureza.

Buy more palay to aid tillers, GMA orders NFA

By Christian V. Esguerra and Amy R. Remo

TORN BETWEEN THE URGENT need to protect farmers and consumers, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday ordered the National Food Authority (NFA) to increase to 18 percent the volume of palay (unhulled rice) that it buys (as of the country's total production.

The move was apparently meant to appease farmers and millers who warned at a Cabinet meeting yesterday that they "won't plant next season anymore" if the government intervened in palay purchases at the current 12 percent level. The meeting included representatives of farmers, millers and consumers.

Press Secretary Jesus Dureza said in a press briefing that "government will have to do a balancing act."

"Keep prices within the level of the low consumer people. But if prices are always low, farmers will not be encouraged because they will not be coming," he said.

By buying 10 percent of the palay produce, the government will be able to influence the price "to a level that will still be viable for the farmers in he able to plant the and continue with their productivity, but at the same time, make it also affordable for the consumers," Dureza said.

But Dureza made it clear that the decision would not affect the P15.25 per-kg selling price of NFA-subsidized rice for the "poorest of the poor" with access cards.

Meanwhile, Yap said in a speech at the 36th Philippine Business Conference that the government subsidized rice price of P38.25 a kilo "shocking."

"It should be at least P25 and P26 to allow also retailers and millers to pump some of their rice out of the market and help the financing of the [rice] subsidies," Yap said.

Much of the rice that the government imports is being resold at P18.25 a kilo, despite having been bought at high prices. On average, the government subsidizes as much as P15.75 of every kilogram of rice it sells to the public.

Yap later qualified his position, explaining that it was the Philippine Farmers Advisory Board, retailers and millers who wanted to subsidize the P18.25 per kilogram rice from the market.

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Corrections

IN THE OCT. 16 ISSUE, a front-page story—"Ex-cop unrelated with chief barred from leaving Manila"—misstated the former designation of Illano de la Paz. He is an ex-comptroller of the Philippine National Police—not a former national comptroller.

* * *

IN THE SAME ISSUE, a photo caption on Page A13 misstated the date when the Christia Mae duo killed 11 persons happened. The Mae happened on Oct. 19, 2007—not Oct. 24, 2007.

* * *

IN THE OCT. 17 ISSUE, a Lifestyle article on Page B2—"Mabuhay jewelry exhibit at Met Museum"—misspelled the name of an author of jewelry books. The author's name is Kit Patterson—not Peterson.

* * *

IN THE OCT. 16 ISSUE, Bernie Bello's "On Target" column on Page A20 of the Metro section—"PNP 'incubo' Have money, will travel"—misstated the name of the wife of PNP Director General Jesse Sermese. The name of the PNP chief's wife is Cynthia—not Zenaida.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for corrections of factual errors or anything in the Fact Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PSI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Marconi Street, Makati City, fax (632) 897-8332, e-mail factdesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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UK opens new embassy

A SLEEK, SEMI-STATE-of-the-art and environmentally-friendly embassy was inaugurated Monday by the United Kingdom to mark British-Philippine Friendship Day as proclaimed by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The new British embassy in McKinley Hill at The Fort was formally inaugurated by Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo and British Ambassador to the Philippines Dewi Bredenkamp.

Members of the diplomatic corps, business, government and Philippine-British community were present.

In his statement, Bredenkamp said the inauguration was a celebration of the nearly two centuries of diplomatic relations between the two countries which started with the arrival of the first British consul to the Philippines in 1844.

He said the British engineering expertise that was so elegantly at the inauguration was not new to Philippines.

In the 19th century British engineers helped launch the Manila-Dagupan railway line, thus boosting commerce in Luzon, Bedrenkamp said.

British engines sparked the unprecedented growth of the sugar industry, especially in Iloilo and Negros, he added.

For his part, Romulo lauded the British government for building a beautiful example of modern international design.

"This action reflects an most confidence in our country and leaves no doubt that our friendship is anchored on solid ground," he said.

According to Bedrenkamp, the relationship between the two countries has never been stronger. He said that UK energy, financial and retail investors have set to expand still further in the Philippines, and there was a growing British presence in the booming business process outsourcing (BPO) sector.

"We are pleased that ministers from both governments have agreed to the start of formal official talks, which we hope will begin early next year. I look forward to seeing a number of key Philippine stakeholder organizations to Britain next year, and welcoming more British companies to this exciting country," Bedrenkamp said. Cynthia D. Balana

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Follow China visa laws, Pinoys told

By Kristine L. Alave

THE PHILIPPINE OVERSEAS Employment Administration (POEA) has warned Filipinos working in China to adhere strictly to the terms of their visas and not overstay as the Chinese government has intensified its crackdown on illegal workers.

In a statement, the POEA said it had received reports from the Philippine Embassy in Beijing of Filipinos detained and fined for violating Chinese visa laws.

It noted the case of a Filipino worker who was lured to China with a well-paying job, only to find out there was no job and he had to live in a cramped dormitory with other Filipinos in similar straits.

Instead of the promised job, the coach-er found work in Mongolia for merely pay.

There were also reports of recruiters giving false and short-term working visas to Filipinos, the POEA said.

The government reminded Filipinos with "E" or worker visas to China that this type of visa cannot be converted into a working visa.

It also warned them against those promising to get them European Union or Schengen visas in China, saying this would likely be fake. Only Chinese nationals can receive Schengen visas in China, it said.

The government also warned Filipinos not to insist on working as tutors or domestic helpers in China, saying these positions were not open to foreigners.

Filipino workers arrested by Chinese authorities are jailed, fined and deported to the Philippines. Those who continue to work with expired visas or who do not have work permits at all have little protection from Chinese authorities, the Philippine Embassy said.

Before going to China, the POEA reminded teachers to get a contract they can understand from their prospective employers. They should also ask to see a copy of a license that says the employer is allowed to hire foreign nationals by the Chinese government.

"While it is true there is a need for English teachers in China, not all schools are authorized by the Chinese government to hire foreign teachers. Most of the cases of breach of contract and illegal overstayers involve unauthorized schools and fly-by-night recruitment agencies that hire Filipino teachers via the Internet or telephone," the statement said.

C. Z. Villareal; 75

CIPRIANO Z. VILLAREAL, BORN MARCH 3, 1933, in Baao, Camarines Sur, and a resident of Quezon City and California, USA, died on Oct. 19 at the Northridge Hospital Medical Center in Los Angeles.

He is survived by his children Evelyn and Associate Justice A. Rosmedi and Alexander de Guzman, Albert and Joy Villareal, and Zita and Nore Cliffors; siblings Teodora and Antonia; grandchildren Mark, Allen, Francis, Joana, Ralph, Ina, Joseph, Ami, Ana, Joshua, Jacob and Trevor; in laws and other relatives.

Interment is scheduled on Oct. 25 at Forest Lawn, Hollywood Hills, California.

Joegar writes '30'

DIRECTOR JOSE "JOEGAR" SAMSON, head of the Senate Public Relations and Information Bureau, died on Oct. 18 in Laguna. He was 62.

He is survived by his wife Flaviida, daughter Julian Christy, brother Juanito and sister Miguela Panganiban.

A press journalist before joining the Senate media office, Garcia worked in newspapery, freelance and editor in various news organizations such as The Philippine Herald, Philippine News Agency, Manila Chronicle, Ang Bagong Dyaryo, Sunstar and Metrod.

His remains lie at the family residence, Block 1-1, Lot 39, Colonnade Village, San Pedro, Laguna. Interment details will be announced later.

Expert on past dies; 82

ALFREDO S. EVANGELISTA, the country's foremost archeologist, died in his San Pedro, Laguna home Saturday. He was 82.

After heading the Anthropology Division of the National Museum, Evangelista ordered an indefinite leave to become deputy director in 1995.

In the course of a generation of field archeology, Evangelista discovered cultural artifacts now regarded as landmarks of the Filipinos' past. He joined the National Museum after obtaining a master's degree in anthropology from the University of Chicago in 1959 under the Fulbright program.

Among Evangelista's most important finds were the earliest primary burial sites in the country—5,300 years old in Duyong Cave, Palawan; and the Laguna Copper Plate—the earliest known legal document in the country.

From burial earthen urn, Batanes Island, he recovered two pieces of the only existing prehistoric clock in the Philippines, now declared National Cultural Treasures.

Higher Meralco rates approved by ERC

Front page A1

sector Franck Emerimo Jose said.

Meralco's franchise area covers Metro Manila and nearby cities and provinces.

The overcharge was for the currency exchange rate adjustment (Crea) from June 2003 to December 2006, which was intended to allow Meralco to recover charges in the principal of its foreign currency loans due to exchange rate fluctuations.

The impact of the refund order was 14.01 per kWh, to be given back in customers over a 12-month period, effective the next billing cycle.

Effective November

Effective next month, Meralco can charge P4.2260 per kWh from the current average distribution, supply and metering rate of P1.0811 per kWh, the ERC said.

It was the first increase in Meralco's basic distribution charge since 2003, Jones told reporters.

The increase was in response to Meralco's application to translate into new rates the maximum allowable price (MAP) that it could charge its customers this year under its approved performance-based regulation (PBR) application.

For the second regulatory period, or from 2007 2011, the ERC allowed Meralco to charge a maximum of P1.307 per kWh this year, P1.2867 per kWh in 2009, P1.2631 per kWh in 2010 and P1.671 per kWh in 2011.

However, due to delays in the implementation of the new rates, the MAP for the 2009 regulatory year is from July 2008 to June 2009, was adjusted to P1.1867 per kWh. This was the second rebate Meralco based its computation rise of rate adjustments for the individual customer classes.

New rates

Under the approved new structure applying the 2008 MAP the distribution charges for residential and general service customers are the following:

- Consumption of up to 200 kWh—77.84 centavos per kWh from the existing 37.29 per kWh;
- 201-300 kWh—P1.5321 per kWh from P7.03 centavos per kWh;
- 301-400 kWh—P1.5940 per kWh from P1.3028 per kWh;
- 401 kWh and above—P2.1186 per kWh from P1.6615 per kWh.

The supply charge is pegged at P0.8 per customer and 47.50 centavos per kWh, while the metering charge is placed at P5.38 per customer and 34.02 centavos per kWh for the two customer segments.

For general power customers, the new distribution charges are P135.92, P139.53 and P140.03 per kW, depending on the voltage, and 2.1 centavos per kWh for metered consumption.

The supply charges are P1,530, P6,030 and P13,375, while the metering charges are P825, P5,478.66 and P5,941.50, also depending on the voltage.

General power customers availing themselves of the two-day power sales prices, which Meralco offers to entities with National Power Corp., will see their distribution charge more or 46.86 centavos and 39.14 centavos per kWh, depending on the voltage.

Public hospitals, streetlights

Government hospitals, metered streetlights and electricity customers will be charged a distribution charge of 72.79 centavos per kWh, a supply charge of P276.50 per customer and a metering charge of P250.75 per customer.

In a statement, Meralco said it had voluntarily stopped collecting the Crea since early January 2007 due to the convincing appreciation of the peso against the dollar, as well as the conversion of its foreign-denominated loans to peso in December 2006.

Meralco successfully refinanced P12 billion worth of loans almost two years ago.

"In this regard and in view of the continuing peso appreciation, Meralco will temporarily stop collecting the Crea, starting with its January 2007 billing. This will enable us to make a final accounting of our Crea collections," Meralco said in a Jan. 4, 2007 letter to the ERC.

The consolidation of the Crea effectively reduced Meralco's return by an average of 7.82 centavos per kWh. With a report from Reuters

Gov'ts take more bold moves to ease financial crisis

Front page A1

bailout scheme that would entitle big banks to injections of public funds. Tokyo is planning to create a law that had been stored mainly at recapitalizing regional banks that are financing credit-starved small firms.

"I can't see any reason why big banks should be discriminated against," Sasano told a news conference on Tuesday. Japanese banks have avoided risky credit products, but sharp share price falls in recent weeks have hit their balance sheets.

Easy lending

Governments around the world have already pledged about $3.3 trillion to guarantee bank deposits and funds to bank lending. In some cases, they have taken stakes in banks amongst such bad assets.

That process is ongoing—the Bank of England allocated $25.97 billion to an auction of unlimited one-month funds on Tuesday while the Saudi central bank poured $2.431 billion into its banking system, its first direct injection of dollar since early.

There are some signs the international effort is paying dividends. Banks are beginning to lend to each other again as shown by the interbank cost of borrowing dollars slipping again to London Rates for overnight dollar deposits ranged between 2.63 and 1.46 percent from around 6.5 1.5 percent early on Monday.

Overnight rates hit as high as 10 percent after the collapse of Lehman Brothers in September, but they have fallen after central banks cut rates and pumped cash to counter concerns into many markets.

The crisis will not be over until governments support is removed and banks to-bank lending—frozen for much of the last year by uncertainty over which groups faced financial disaster—is flowing freely again.

Investors elated

Still, government moves to bolster the banking system elated investors, with European stock markets opening modestly higher on Tuesday following gains in leading Asian bourses.

Britain's FTSE 100 index and Germany's DAX edged higher. France's CAC-40 index, however, rose more strongly by 2.5 percent.

Europe's gains followed the 3.5-percent advance on Japan's Tokyo Nikkei 225 index and the 4.7-percent jump in the Hong Kong Hang Seng index on Monday.

"A strong finish on Wall Street last night as the previously brave credit markets continue to show full-blooded recent government intervention has lifted sentiment in many Asian markets and the gains look set to continue into Europe," said Mare Burkland, a dealer at CMC Markets.

While shares in most Asian currencies soared higher, several major stock markets still suffered losses in the end. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index lost 1.84 percent, Shanghai's benchmark A-B 0.8 percent and South Korea's index shed about 1 percent.

"Markets remain fickle and we are in going to want to risk being caught on the wrong side of any quick sell-off and the potential for another reversion still cannot be ruled out," CMC's Burkland said.

US stock futures pointed to a lower opening on Wall Street on Tuesday. Dow futures were down 1 per cent, S&P 500 futures by 1.1 percent and Nasdaq 100 futures by 1.3 percent.

On the whole, however, policymakers sounded more upbeat.

Juergen Stark, a member of the European Central Bank Executive Board, said many "accidents" might occur in the global financial system but governments' actions had left Europe "better placed to cope."

Glenn Stevens, Australia's central bank governor said a sharp interest rate cut this month and fiscal stimulus should buoy the economy. "The likelihood of a global catastrophe has in fact declined over the past couple of weeks," he said.

In contrast to the upbeat mood, South Korea President Lee Myung-bak said a looming global recession could sweep measures taken to bolster its heavily indebted banking system.

"The overall situation is more serious than the 1997 (Asian financial) crisis. Both that is true in Asian crisis but today the entire world economy is at risk," Lee said.

European Commission president Jose Manuel Barroso aired the same warning. "Day by day, the evidence builds that we are being a serious economic slowdown," he told the European Parliament.

Countries in trouble

A stark reminder of the breadth of the global crisis came from news reports that Pakistan is seeking a multibillion-dollar rescue package from the IMF and others into national agencies to avert a balance of payments crisis when officials were in Dubai on Tuesday.

"Immediately we don't need more than $16-$15 billion," Shaukat Tarin, the prime minister's economic affairs adviser told Dawn News television channel.

The scale of support reflects Islamabad's dire economy that Pakistan, which is considered vital to the "war on terror," stands at risk of being destabilized and needs a massive cash infusion to fix its economy and pay for necessary imports.

Iceland, driven close to bankruptcy as frozen credit markets caused its banks to fail, is still deciding whether to take IMF money. The Financial Times, however, reported that the country was set to receive an IMF-led, $4-billion rescue package soon.

Ukraine is also in talks for an IMF loan of up to $14 billion. The IMF said it was also ready to help in Hungary, Turkey and Serbia.

The role of the IMF as global financial guardian is likely to be prominent on the agenda when world leaders hold a summit after the Nov. 4 US presidential election to set "principles of reform" needed to fix the financial system. Reports from Reuters, AFP and AP

Ati tribe being displaced on Boracay, say solons

By Leilah Salaverria

INTERIOR LEGISLATORS ARE UNraveling an investigation into the alleged displacement of the Ati tribe from their homeland on the popular resort island of Boracay.

House Resolution 826, filed by a group of party-list representatives on Oct. 8, directs the House committee on national cultural communities to investigate the alleged dispossession of the Ati of their lands due to Department of Tourism (DOT)-backed commercialization of the island.

The Supreme Court recently declared Boracay government land, affirming a presidential proclamation that classifies more than half of the island as disposable. The proclamation has been contested by resort owners who say they would end up bidding for the very properties that they already own.

In the resolution, the lawmakers noted that the Ati tribe have long inhabited Boracay, predating the businessmen who saw the island's potential as a top tourist destination.

Ancestral domain

The lawmakers said the nomadic Ati, who number about 1,000, regard Boracay as their ancestral domain, referring to it as "Binirayan."

The island's natural beauty, white sand beaches and clear waters have attracted local and foreign visitors to its shores, fueling the boom in construction of business establishments on the island, which in turn has affected Ati lands.

"The Ati's ancestral domain is steadily being encroached upon by various commercial interests and the ongoing resort, economic, event and telecommunications construction boom on the island," the lawmakers said.

They said the Ati were averse to parting with their land.

"To the Ati, selling their ancestral lands is tantamount to taking away their life," they said.

They also pointed out that under the Indigenous People's Rights Act, ancestral domain constitutes the indigenous people's private and community property, and cannot be sold, disposed of or destroyed.

The resolution was filed by Bayan Muna Representatives Satur Ocampo and Teodoro Casiño, Gabriela Representatives Liza Maza and Luzviminda Ilagan and Anakpawis Rep. Rafael Mariano.

Filipino in Hanoi: A people uncowed by US bombs

Frontpage AI

themselves in battle stations, which could be in bunkers or in camouflaged machine-gun nests on the rooftops. Every tall building—most were no more than two stories—had some sort of machine gun mounted inside of brick barbicans, sandbagged and manned by militia. The instruction was to shoot down an American plane which risk Clinton-made rifles and light machine guns.

Every man and woman who could carry a rifle was armed by the government, and, in reaching its core diplomacy, that showed the confidence the politburo had in the popular support for the war effort. "If the threat government does not have the support of the people," the diplomat said, "it will fall. I mean it. I'm not afraid that almost everybody is armed."

THE SECRETION ON THE 22ND anniversary of North Vietnam's independence from French rule was scarcely over when I set out at 9 p.m., 20 degrees, for the city of the Red River Delta south toward the 17th parallel. National Day itself was 2 September, but, as a security measure, the politburo of the Vietnamese Workers Party secretly celebrated it days earlier at 6 p.m. or the National Assembly. 4 pregnant was held 24 hours by the secretion at the presidential palace, while anti-aircraft batteries vigilantly scanned the skies for the first time the politburo, including Ho Chi Minh, set together under our roof since the all was started.

The government took no chances. It issued invitations to journalists and members of the diplomatic corps [only] two days before the official program. Prime Minister Phan Van Dong was to deliver a much-awaited policy speech. My golden cause quickly to my heart soon after lunch and hustled me to the National Assembly. Such was the secrecy I didn't even have time to change into clothes I were taking me. It was a rare chance to see the politburo leaders. There were no interviews, despite requests from journalists. Between the morning and the reception, I observed a tour of [Phnom] upstairs.

As soon as the reception ended, my escorts took me back to the hotel in collect my bag. That was the beginning of nearly two weeks of nocturnal races in South-by-southeast across the Red River Delta. "Hanoi Dan," the party newspaper, carried a daily score-board of US planes shot down since February 1965: a total of 2,210 against the Pentagon's claim of 668, by the previous day's published count. I took a Russian jeep, accompanied by my guide, Long, and two more-plainclothes police.

We took Route No. 1, the old French main highway to Saigon in the south, running parallel to the narrow-gauge railway. Our jeep traveled with dimmed lights. A few kilometers outside Hanoi, I saw a convoy of five trucks mounted with camouflaged anti-aircraft guns moving toward Hanoi. Every seven miles the village of the railway tracks, with mounds of sand, gravel, and railway ties. The crews were recruited with marks indicating they came from Poland. Truck traffic was heavy moving south. Because civilian directed traffic at checkpoints and [illegible] crosses. Pit made a detour at 60 km from Hanoi, where women gangs protected from rain by straw conical hats were breaking rocks and piling them piece by piece on scattered roads that had been hit by bombs. We had to push most of the sandwiches as we waited for traffic to move us. Empty trucks were moving in the opposite direction toward Hanoi.

The railway stations along the way had been bombed. People were working on the platforms. Repairs were going on in the night on damaged railway tracks. Air raid shelters dug in the mud and ditches were filled with water.

Route No. 1 started to narrow as we moved farther south. Trucks traveled with dark taillights and only with one headlight, with shaded beams. Stations in small groups were marching as militia centers in self-defense exercises. Bicycles carrying loads of 200 kilos each and half-ton trucks hauling charcoal and sacks of rice were also traveling on the highway. The traffic was an eerie procession of shadows and twinkling dots of faint lights, like fireflies dancing in the bamboos.

AS WE TOOK THE FLAT ROAD across the river, I was always on the lookout for aircraft. From our base in the rail bags to the fibers, we drove early in the morning at 7 a.m. as two Russian jeeps. My guides told me it was risky in travel late in the day. They cautioned me that if there was a raid I must get calm and do what they said.

We took Route No. 1 again, entered village roads, crossed a wooden bridge, one of four, and a pontoon bridge built after the main bridge was destroyed. Gangs of women were replacing the road bed with rocks as it could take heavy truck traffic. Three anti-aircraft guns were concealed under trees on the roadside. There was a density of a US plane from a bombing run which I was interviewing the bishop of the diocese of Khiet By, a village five km from the Laos border. An hour after the bombing, we hurriedly inspected the bombed sites with town officials. Eight bombs had been dropped. Two exploded amid the ruins of a building that had been bombed in 1966, some 50 meters from a toy bridge connecting the main street and the road leading into the town. Two of the bombs did not explode. Two other bombs fell on the border a kilometer away across the irrigation canal, killing a 60-year-old peasant, a dog, and a pig, and destroying four huts made of straw and mud walls.

The peasant's wife was in the fields working and the couple's son was in the army. The peasant lived a wretched life, in the middle of his hut, the only possession I saw was a shattered ceramic rice bowl and chopsticks. The peasant was having lunch when the bomb fell. Apparently, according to the officials, the target was a one-lane wooden bridge, one hundred meters away. The bridge is 175 plans bombed and missed the same bridge. The rockets fired from the plane decapitated a man and killed two water buffalos.

THE MORNING DE PREMAT

YouTube plays big role in US elections

Frontpage AI

jumping chip—his campaign contribution earned to YouTube.

"The McCain campaign was imploding," recalled Julie Germany, director of George Washington University's Institute for Politics, Democracy and the Internet.

"They decided the most outright investment to build ground status in the primaries would be to put videos up on YouTube with high-production values," Germany told Agence France-Presse.

"They realized that by the end of the day they would be all over television news and network news and cable news and people would be talking about them on the political talk shows," she said. "And they were right."

The political advertisements posted on the free video-sharing site have been credited by Germany and other analysts with helping McCain revive his fortunes and reign in impressible comeback victory in the crucial New Hampshire primary.

McCain came on to capture his party's nomination and build a war chest for his bid a presidential election bid, but his campaign has continued to make many use of YouTube in the battle for the White House.

"They deployed their videos the day August 30th assault ads against Barack Obama," Germany said.

"The campaigns are putting video out on the Web knowing full well that their supporters will distribute it for them," said Andrew Rasiej, a co-founder of techpresident.com, a blog that explores how technology is changing politics.

New political ecology

"There's an entirely new political ecology that's been launched because of the Internet, we call YouTube," Rasiej said.

Some of McCain's hard-hitting video ads such as "Celeb" or "Tax Day," in which Obama is depicted as an over-hyped media creation, never appeared on broadcast television but only on YouTube as so-called "phone videos."

But, as intended by the McCain campaign, the video ads took on a life of their own, being picked up by television networks, sent around on links on the Internet and written about by bloggers and mainstream print media.

The cure of producing the Web-only videos were a fraction of the costs of a traditional television or radio advertising buy.

YouTube has not only been used as a vehicle for free campaign advertising, it's also allowed the candidates to get their message directly to the public.

Both candidates have their own channels on YouTube—youtube.com/barackobama and youtube.com/johnmccain.

Bypassing media

"The thing about video internet, but not as well, is that candidates now have new ways of talking to voters," said Lee Rainie, director of the Pew Internet and American Life Project at the Washington-based Pew Research Center.

"Candidates still depend to a certain extent on traditional media carrying their message but they are now increasingly taking advantage of these other opportunities to bypass the media and speak directly to voters," Rainie said.

Steven Grave, YouTube's news and political director, writing on a recent issue of Harvard University's Nieman Reports, described the Google-owned site as "the world's largest town hall for political discussion."

YouTube, in a partnership with CNN, also sponsored two debates during the presidential primaries with the novel format of having questions submitted in videos made by viewers.

Homemade parodies

Some 5,000 videos, from the straightforward to the outrageous, were sent in to YouTube for the Republican debate and some 3,000 for the Democratic showdown including one featuring a talking mormon wearing short-sleeve shirts.

The site, which uploads 13 hours of video a minute according to co-founder Chad Hurley, has also become a leading vehicle for political satire, featuring everything from homemade parodies to slick professional productions.

"This a culture that invented the political cartoon and now with digital video technologies there are new ways to play around with stuff and have some fun with it," Pew's Rainie said.

One thing the presidential campaign hasn't seen... so far at least, since Germany—is a "YouTube debate," or one where questions gathered by reader to one of the candidates that ends up on YouTube.

AFP

Upgrade of airports' rating seen in 2009

Front page AI

rare to Category 1 by passing an IAA visit.

"It's going to be a long and hard process," CAAP Director General Reiben Cruz told the lawmakers in an interview last month.

"We still have many problems because we are in transition, but there are many organizations who are helping," Cruz said.

"We are hoping that by July 2000, we [will] have been upgraded from Category 2 to Category 1. The last time we were downgraded, it took me years for us to be upgraded again."

Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza recently told Senate reporters that the country's fund already, but the quality control over the FAA recommendations and that an upgrade may be expected by earliest next year.

Asked how much of the requirements the CAAP had completed, Cruz said the work that the agency was still "encouraging" in compliance performance.

Not yet ready

Cruz said in the September interview that the CAAP had already "completed about 40 percent to 50 percent of what we have identified passed the line and we are already sending the new CAAP."

Philippine aviation was supposed to undergo a separate and more thorough audit by the ICAO in November, but Cruz asked for a reschedule.

The ICAO audit seeks to check the country's compliance with global standards in safety, airport quality and navigational equipment, among others, according to Cruz.

"We said we are not yet ready because CAAP is still in transition, so the next ICAO audit will be in October 2000," he said.

New aviation law

In January, the FAA reverted the Philippines to its 1999 category rating of Category 2, placing the country alongside Bangladesh, Cote D'Ivoire, Ghana, Guyana, Indonesia, Nauru, Ukraine and Serbia and Montenegro (formerly Yugoslavia).

The downgrade spurred stringent inspection of the US operations of locally licensed Philippine Airlines (PAL) and banned the flag carrier from expanding its operations in American states and territories.

The CAAP now a locally independent agency that supervises the Philippine civil aviation industry sprung from the new civil aviation law signed in the 1995.

Long overdue, the CAAP bill was signed into law in March following quick congressional action that started after the FAA downgrade.

Backward practices

The FAA had cited the country's 1952 aviation law as the root of backward aviation practices, particularly regulations on safety and economic regulations. Such as airworthiness, aircraft and pilot inspections.

The new law still has to be fully implemented and the CAAP has yet to fulfill technical requirements in areas such as safety oversight. For instance, a source privy in the compliance process told the Inquirer.

IN THE KNOW

Pass-or-fail scale

THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION (FAA) conducts an extensive safety assessment program to ensure that all foreign carriers operating to and from the United States comply with International Civil Aviation Organization standards.

The program uses a rigid pass-or-fail scale.

Countries that comply with the standards are listed under Category 1 and are allowed to initiate new aviation services to the United States.

Those that fail are listed under Category 2. They are banned from initiating new aviation services. They have also staff and flight and inspection some time from Category 1 countries.

Air carriers from Category 2 countries will also be subject to additional inspections at US airports.

List of inadequacies

In their assessment of minimum safety requirements which the Philippines is obligated to comply with, US inspectors found, among others:

- Flawed pilot licensing and airworthiness certification procedures.
- Lack of personnel training.
- Un-updated manuals for airworthiness, and aircraft and pilot inspection.
- Absence of licensees to keep master copies of those guidelines.

Questionable test sheets

The findings were based on the quality of Philippine airports. That fell under a separate audit.

FAA inspectors found that the air worthiness inspectors' handbook of the FAA Flight Operations Office (FOO) "has not been updated since 2002." There was also "no library or librarian responsible for maintaining a master manual and keeping the restrictive handbook current."

The FAA's flight operations inspectors handbook lacked updates on international regulations.

FAA inspectors noted questionable pencil marks on test sheets.

The FAA found there was "no documented training program or QJT (on-the-job training) program for airworthiness inspectors." The current staff has not been retrained.

Pilot inspectors were found to have missed aircraft or simulator training.

Aircraft safety certification files did "not contain necessary" that there were procedures for emergency situations. Such files were kept to address as the documents "lack organization."

Twenty-one of the 109 countries recently assessed by the FAA were cleared under Category 1.

The full list of countries and the assessment checklists can be found at www.faa.gov. *Reports from Dana B. Balanquit and Cyril L. Bonabokit, Inquirer Research*

Besides the creation of the CAAP, the aviation reforms said many of the FAA requirements were still on the to-do list.

"They are doing it little by little. We don't accelerate inspection if they want to upgrade or they want to remain in Category 2 forever," the source said in an irked tone.

Lack of manpower

He said the critical areas of concern are those on personnel and personnel qualification for pilot licensing, airworthiness certification and aircraft and pilot inspection had yet to be achieved. Still problematic are the CAAP's record-keeping, particularly documentation of pilot licensees and plane and pilot records.

In the source's words, ICAO consultants working with the CAAP for months have become "very, very frustrated" with how the country's officials have been handling the problem.

The source said CAAP people had been dismissive of ICAO recommendations and questioned the United Nations agency's authority to propose ways on how the agency might overcome the downgrade.

In response, Cruz said in the September interview: "We consider their suggestions but it's taking time because we have yet to finish assessing CAAP. We are still short in people. We can't rush this."

Such suspension was apparent in comments that Lawrence Rosenberg, chair of the ICAO flight safety evaluatory panel for the Philippines, wrote in a document dated April 6, 2000.

Foreign assistance

Referring to the CAAP's inspection of its fleet, the head of the agency's safety oversight system, Hosbor said: "It makes no sense at all to this writer to have listing standards lower than what would be required for one to be a qualified inspector ... This is an area where the board should reconsider all of the flight operations inspectorate."

Cruz said the agency was already recruiting qualified personnel, among them former airline pilots who would only need refreshers to get back to working conditions.

He said the CAAP had been working closely with the FAA to satisfy conditions for an upgrade. Several workers having said Airbus have also pledged to give technical assistance to pull up the country's air safety ranking.

"In turn, foreign and local groups are assisting to lose bid for a) Category 1 upgrade ICAO-foreign technical consultants are with us now. But, if, invest to raise our status for a needs in Washington ... NOG-ATA, we hope to bring upgrade in less than a year," Cruz said.

Gochoyo, 11, the CAAP sent a five-man team to the IAA headquarters in Washington, DC for an orientation on Category 1 standards. Cruz said, the team members will guide their CAAP colleagues into complying with the FAA Category 1 checklist.

"When we are ready, we will request FAA to send a technical team to check our preparation. Then IAA will recruit," Cruz. *Editorial part homework*

Explain foreclosures, gov't agency told

By Judy Quiros and Allan Macatuno
Inquirer Mindanao

DAVAO CITY—THE Ombudsman for Mindanao has given the government's National Home Mortgage Finance Corp. (NHMFC) in Mindanao 15 days to explain why it foreclosed on a number of low-cost and socialized housing mortgages and resold them to the Bukidnon Housing Financier Corp. (BHFC), a private corporation.

Davao City Councilor Danilo Dayanghirang filed the complaint against the NHMFC and BHFC on Sept. 13, saying it was one of the "biggest scandals" under Vice President Noli de Castro's administration as chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC).

According to Dayanghirang, the NHMFC foreclosed on 9,000 homes in this city alone and transferred ownership to the BHFC, a subsidiary of Deutsche Bank Real Estate Global Opportunities based in Germany.

He did not say when the foreclosures started.

"I took up the cudgels for the city's homeowners; this is a nationwide problem," Dayanghirang said.

Last alternative

Lawyer Dante Rizada of the NHMFC's legal department said the fund agency foreclosed on "thousands" of properties nationwide because they were considered "highly delinquent" accounts.

"Foreclosing properties is our last alternative. We want to understand (homeowners) but we also need to take the necessary steps to protect the agency," Rizada said.

He said the NHMFC had given homeowners a chance to pay their amortization but financial difficulties prevented them from keeping up with the payments.

Rizada said that before foreclosing on any property, they sent out demand letters and notices.

"But some homeowners abandon their property before the actual foreclosure," he said.

Rizada declined to speak on the agreement between the NHMFC and BHFC.

Though Dayanghirang said the deal was irregular because it did not pass Congress. He also said the NHMFC was transacting business with a company it partially owned.

Dayanghirang claimed the NHMFC owned 41 percent of BHFC, while 316 Global Real Estate Opportunities owned 51 percent.

Higher rates

While homeowners could still buy back foreclosed properties by dealing with the BHFC, Dayanghirang said they would have to pay higher interest rates.

The NHMFC only charges 9 percent interest while the BHFC charges 14 percent interest.

He also said the BHFC did not offer loan condonation unlike the NHMFC.

Dayanghirang said he had asked Congress for help before he filed a complaint with the Ombudsman but nothing happened.

"Congress, specifically Speaker Prospero Nograles, said he would call for an immediate investigation of Bukidnon but until now nothing has been done," he said.

UE sets reunion

THE UNIVERSITY of the East Alumni Association Inc. will hold its alumni homecoming on Dec. 16 at Black Mesh Golf and Country Club in Mandaluyong City.

With the theme "UE Alumni: Going Full Circle, Touching Lives," the session is expected to attract thousands of UE alumni, including prominent people in government and business like Vice President Noli de Castro and Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim. Alumni may visit the UEAA website to register online (www.ue-alumni.net) or call Allen at 7338877 and 7355471 to 82, local 306, for details.

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Let us vote, plead inmates awaiting trial

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

ABOUT 63,000 INMATES UNDER DETENTION, or prisoners whose cases had not yet been resolved, have asked the Commission on Elections to allow them to participate in the May 2010 local and national elections.

Detention prisoners should not be denied their right to vote since they have not been convicted, said executive secretary Rodolfo Bonnaire of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines-Episcopal Commission on Prison Pastoral Care.

The CBCP-ECPPC yesterday endorsed to the Comelec the signed petitions it had gathered from detention prisoners held in various prisons throughout the country.

Due to the dominos of the country's judicial system, an estimated 70 percent of these languishing in congested jails are actually still awaiting or undergoing trial and should therefore be considered innocent of any crime.

"We do not know exactly how many prisoners there are in the Philippines. This is the only country that does not know the exact number of its prisoners. Why is that? Because there are so many agencies overseeing prison facilities," said Bonnaire in a news conference held at CBCP headquarters in Manila.

According to Bonnaire, even the Department of Social Welfare and Development does not know how many juvenile detainees there are, or where they are being held, since they are mixed with adult prisoners in congested facilities.

He said the CBCP will go with the rule of thumb used in other countries, which is that usually about one-tenth of one percent of the population were offenders, meaning that with a population of 83 million, there would be some 83,000 prisoners in Philippine jails.

The CBCP prison reform advocacy group encouraged detention inmates to petition the Comelec as part of its observance of Prison Awareness Sunday on Oct. 26.

The CBCP-ECPPC is campaigning to bring to light the conditions of prisoners and to promote "restorative justice" in rehabilitating prisoners.

Bonnaire said it was not fair that while detention prisoners were denied their right to vote, a convicted congressman could run for public office, referring to Cambanga del Norte Rep. Romeo Jalosjos Jr. who was elected while serving a sentence for raping a minor.

Prison rights advocate Fr. Roberto Reyes said detention prisoners should be given the opportunity to vote for both local and national leaders. Reyes is with the Asian Human Rights Commission based in Hong Kong.

Comelec Commissioner Rene Sarmiento accepted the prisoners' petitions, saying that he fully supported allowing detention prisoners to vote.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, October 22, 2008
29th Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: Eph 3:2-12
Gospel: Lk 12:39-48

Jesus said to his disciples, "Be sensible to this: if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief would come, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready for the day or hour will come at an hour you do not expect."

Peter said, "Lord, did you tell this parable only for us, or for everyone?" And the Lord replied, "Imagine, then, the wise and faithful steward whom the master welcomes back when he returns to give them food rations at the proper time. Fortunate is this servant if the master on coming home finds him doing his work. Truly, I say to you, the master will put him in charge of all his property.

"But it may be that the steward thinks 'My lord delays in coming,' and he begins to abuse the manservants and the servant girls, eating and drinking and getting drunk. Then the master will come on a day he does not expect him and at no hour he does not know. He will cut him off and send him to the same fate as the unfaithful.

"The servant who knew his master's will, but did not prepare or do what his master wanted, will be punished with many blows; but the one who did what deserved a punishment without knowing it shall receive fewer blows. Much will be required of the one who has been given much, and more will be asked of the one entrusted with more."

Commentary

The Lord generously bestows upon us blessings without measure. He is so very good to us, yet He always expects much of us. We are called to be good and faithful stewards of all that the Lord entrusts to us.

A good steward is grateful, always thanking God for blessings received. A good steward is also responsible with the gifts that God has bestowed, using them wisely and never taking them for granted. Finally, a good steward generously shares with others, following Jesus' words that it is better to give than to receive. Good stewardship is always pleasing in the sight of the Lord.

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FREEDMEN are the left get free legal advice as their cases from lawyers from the Public Attorney's Office which also provided free medical, dental and optical treatment at the New Bilibid Prison in Muntinlupa City yesterday.

Rolito Go seeking pardon, parole official confirms

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

MURDER CONVICT ROLITO GO HAS APplied more than once for executive clemency, according to a member of the Board of Pardons and Parole.

Ismael Hernandez, administrator of the Parole and Probation Administration, said Go's application had come up before during board deliberations.

"Si Rolito Go, nag-pa-apply nga rin [he keeps applying]. He's still with the BuCor [Bureau of Corrections]," said Hernandez, at a press conference called yesterday by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines-Episcopal Commission on Prison Pastoral Care.

But he said he did not know the status of Go's application at present.

"Nasa iyon, but recently I can't recall the status of the application," he said.

The possible grant of freedom to Go came up after another high-profile murder convict, Claudio Teehankee Jr., was recently granted executive clemency by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Teehankee had killed two people, while Go shot to death a college student over a traffic altercation.

Teehankee served 14 years of a life sentence while Go has done less time than that. He also escaped from jail and had for three years before being recaptured, which has made him ineligible for a pardon.

Yesterday, inmates of the New Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa City were treated by the Public Attorney's Office to a day of free legal consultations and medical, dental and optical treatment.

Teehankee's release had caused controversy because it highlighted the difference in the treatment accorded rich and influential prisoners like the son of the late chief justice of the Supreme Court and his.

Hernandez said he did not want to discuss Teehankee's pardon because a petition had been filed in the Supreme Court seeking to overturn the presidential pardon.

But he said Teehankee was "qualified for executive clemency" since he had complied with the requirements, including serving more than 20 years in prison, counting his good conduct time allowance.

In response to a question, Hernandez said Teehankee could go abroad if he chose to.

"In general, yes. In fact our allow our parolees to go out of the country, especially if he could reach abroad because it is for the good of the client, for the good of society," he said.

He said Teehankee's case should not have been "sensationalized" since it was within his rights to apply for a pardon.

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OPINION

Uncontrolled corruption

EDITORIAL

IT IS NOT JUST A PERCEPTION. IT IS THE REALITY: the Philippines is one of the world's most corrupt nations.

That is according to Justin Wood, director of the Southeast Asia Corporate Network of The Economist Intelligence Unit. "The Philippines is perceived as one of the most corrupt countries in the world," Wood told the Business Roundtable in Makati earlier this month, citing the results of the latest survey on corruption done by Transparency International. "The perception is very correct."

In Transparency International's latest Corruption Perception Index, the Philippines was way down at 141 among the 180 countries surveyed. Its score of 2.3 (on a scale where 10 means perfectly clean), the lowest it has received since the survey was started in 1995, put the Philippines behind all of its neighbors in Southeast Asia.

Not surprisingly, President Macapagal-Arroyo disagrees. She told the same meeting that the perception of widespread corruption was the media's creation. The people surveyed by Transparency International based their answers on what they read in the newspapers, she said, adding: "We have to remember that we have the freest media in the region... What would be on page 10 in most other countries would be banner headlines in the Philippines. Even rumors and innuendos become fact when they are in the banner headline."

But is corruption in the Philippines largely a figment of the imagination, as the President would like everyone to believe? Ms Arroyo herself seemed to implicitly acknowledge that there is (or was) a problem when she accepted a $21-million grant from the World Bank to fund programs to fight corruption. The Philippines Threshold Program, which was approved in 2006, was meant to strengthen the anti-corruption efforts of the Office of the Ombudsman and Department of Finance. Not only did the government accept the grant, it even matched the amount it got from the World Bank.

But with the program coming to an end in November, the World Bank has been forced to admit that it has been a dismal failure. In fact, during the two years the program has been running, "control of corruption" by the Philippine government was actually deteriorating. Thus, while the Philippines had a "control of corruption" score that was in the 75th percentile in 2006, this went down to the 57th percentile in 2007 and further down to the 47th percentile this year.

This was the first time the Philippines flunked the "control of corruption" indicator, prompting the World Bank to question the effectiveness of its threshold program in combating corruption. In addition, this poor performance has virtually disqualified the country from availing itself of further grants from the Millennium Challenge Corp. "Control of corruption" is the only "hard hurdle" a country must pass to be eligible for funding assistance from the Millennium Challenge.

It is surely not just a coincidence that these independent findings about worsening corruption came at time when new and bigger corruption scandals, involving the country's highest officials, erupted. There was the Northrail project and the National Broadband Network contract, to mention just two of them. These were not issues manufactured by the media. And if they became banner stories, it was not because the media wanted to sensationalize them. They were scandals of mind-boggling proportions, dwarfing other news in importance and impact.

But who cares if programs to combat corruption fail? The crooks in government are happier to see anti-corruption drives failed, because they can continue their corrupt ways without fear of being caught and punished. And there are many of them in high and low places.

Those who keep hoping for clean and honest government that uses taxpayers' money wisely and well will have to wait for another administration. The President thinks corruption is not a problem or at least not the serious problem businessmen and other observers take it to be. Nothing, not even neutral surveys and studies, will change her mind. It would be pointless and futile to look up to her for a solution.

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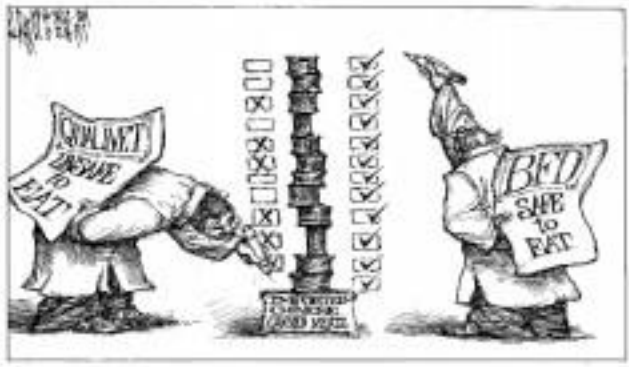

Deceit attended grant of legislative franchise

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

DECADES AGO, DEDON NIDO MARVELOUS: Jaime Ednave's poem "Town" with these lines:

"I think that I shall never see a poem as lovely as a tree;

"Indeed unless the billboards fall,

"I think I'll never see a tree at all."

In Metro Manila, those last two lines can be altered to say:

"Indeed unless the billboards fall,

"I think I'll never see a building tall."

When you drive down Edsa, you'll see what these lines mean. The tall, beautiful buildings, on whose designs many architects spent many long hours, are hidden from view by giant advertising billboards.

Well, those billboards are falling one by one. The latest threw its full crushing weight on a bus station, crushing a car. There were fears. Luckily, no one was killed, but last year a pedestrian died when a billboard fell during a storm. More people may be killed. And that is why billboards are to be destroyed as more and more billboards fall in the future unless we do something about the excessive number of billboards mushrooming every where. It is becoming more hazardous to negotiate the streets of Metro Manila, either on foot or in vehicle, especially during typhoons because of the giant billboards looming dangerously overhead.

After that pedestrian was killed, the Metro Manila Development Authority and the Department of Public Works and Highways began banning more billboards, not only because they posed a danger to the public but also because they distracted drivers. But when MMDA Beyond Boundaries began moving up its road billboards on the middle islands of Edsa, the Makati billboard campaign stopped. And the mushrooms, every time one billboard went down, two went up to its place. Now there are more billboards disturbing motorists than there were before the Edsa Rail Transit was built.

Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago has filed a bill to regulate more strictly the billboard industry but nothing has come of it. I suspect the monstrous ad billboard operators mounted a lobby in Congress and got the MMDA and DPWH to relax the bill, as well as the Metro Manila Council's campaign.

The cause of the billboard glut is, as in most other human calamities, greed. Advertisers pay billboard operators per square foot. The bigger the billboard, the bigger the rent. Also, the advertisers are threatened by another human frailty—pride. They want their billboards bigger than those of their competitors' So like the arms race, the billboards are becoming bigger and bigger.

But as they become bigger, they also become heavier. So steel is expensive, putting up them is dangerous and costly for the billboards because of the expenses. To cut costs and maximize profits—greed, again—some billboard operators scrimp on the steel support. In some billboards, because supports are frail.

The DPWH and the city engineers are supposed to monitor the construction and maintenance of these billboards, but theirs and corruption are powerful enablers. Like the firemen and engineers who inspect a building after a fire, the DPWH and city engineers inspect billboards only after one has fallen, by that time, lives have been lost and property damaged.

Congress should pass Senator Defensor Santiago's billboard bill. Meanwhile, the MMDA and DPWH should remove dismantling giant billboards.

* * *

Another bill that should be passed by Congress is House Bill 3558, which is an outgrowth of hope. Rodolfo Plaza and David Laguisma. The bill seeks to repeal Republic Act 8091, granting to TV Broadcasting Systems a franchise to "construct, install, maintain and operate its commercial purposes radio broadcasting stations in Luzon."

According to Plaza and Laguisma, the granting of the franchise to GV was attended by deceit and misrepresentation. "Documents with the office of then Solidarno Rep. Jose Ma. Zaldivar [then chair of the House Committee on Legislative Franchises] and then Sen. Ernesto Herrera [then chairman of the Senate Committee on Public Services] clearly show that the persons presented before the said committees as the owners of the franchise were in fact not the true and beneficial owners of the firm," HB 3558 said in its explanatory note. "The franchise indeed only where GV was later sold to MediaQuest Holdings Inc. This was where the actual owners of the company emerged." MediaQuest Holdings is a unit of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.; GV has since been renamed MediaQuest Inc.

"It turned out that when GV Broadcasting System Inc. sought a franchise from Congress," the bill continued, "the company's owners were not telling the truth. It was actually intended to another party through paper schemes that effectively mortgaged the company as well as the franchise that the firm was then trying to solicit from Congress."

"GV Broadcasting System Inc. (nonexistent) governor had faith when it concealed the fact that the firm already had now de facto owners that included a former president of a major telecommunications service provider, a former official of the Department of Public Works and Highways and a former executive of the National Telecommunications Commission.

"This is just like Congress granting a franchise to a company not knowing that the firm had been wholly mortgaged to a bank, which had in fact foreclosed on the firm and its assets. In which case, Congress was misled into effectively granting a franchise to the bank, and not to the firm and its stockholders.

"As act of Congress—a legislative franchise—" said Plaza and Laguisma, "is not a piece of real estate that can be acquired by speculators for a fire-sweeter down payment, and then flipped to the highest bidder of unsuspecting financial gain of a handful of speculators masquerading as entrepreneurs."

Inspiring

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

JOE DUMARS II IS A WELL-KNOWN AND beloved figure in the NBA. He recently accomplished his greatest feat yet, and it had nothing to do with basketball.

Dumars was one-half of the formidable Piston backcourt of the late '80s, the other half consisting of Isiah Thomas. Thomas went sooner-fall after his playing days, moving to owner of the New York basketball organization for the last several years before being booted out of there this year. Dumars went on to become one of the model executives not just of basketball but of the corporate world generally, earning a bestowed place into the story of pairs: he president of the Motor City franchise, he piloted Detroit to the championship in 2004 without going into a kind of lavish spending and high-profile player swapping the rest of the league was forced to.

But then I said, his recent and greatest feat had nothing to do with basketball. Adrian Nieves reminded, a Yahoo sports writer, wrote about it some days ago. Dumars was born to parents who had the intellectual mettle to make it through college but never had the opportunity to. His mother was a consultant of Northwestern State University in Louisiana while his dad was a truck driver. Joe left McNeese State University in Central Michigan with several years of college behind him, but needed 21 more hours to graduate. He always planned to finish it, but never found the time to do so.

Over the years, the trophies and the medals and the awards piled up, but he always felt something lacking inside. "It gnawed at me," Dumars said. "It just gnawed. I'm always talking to my players and my organization about, 'No excuses.' You can't be 24 years, and become a pediatrician of a team and you just haven't had the time—or rather, you didn't make any time—to get it done."

Dumars' wife, Debbie, has a Masters degree in education, and three sons, besides, and daughter Nicole, who is in school. Amidst it on his way to the University of South Florida on a basketball scholarship. Joe decided to find the time to get it done. Some 15 months ago, he called up his school to enroll in the online course to complete his bachelor of science in business management.

Nieves reads: "For all the lovely discussions of balancing academics and athletics, Debbie understood that nothing made more of a profound impact than her son coming home to find his father completing his course work in his study late at night. 'If you're going to talk about falling through the bills, you've got to show it,' she said. 'That's why it was important for Joe to get his degree, and say 'hey look what I did.' It kept in line with everything he was preaching."

"In August, the McNeese State president arranged a private graduation ceremony in his home on campus. With the playoffs, Dumars had to miss the Area commencement. So, Dumars invited some 15 family and friends in Lake Charles, and told his daughter, Jaya, and Jordan that they had to come, too ..."

"The most famous situation in the history of McNeese State University were his cap and gown and all the smiles on the faces of those who were anything ... and the NBA either, not one-half of them, nothing—that felt him seeming to ... as ... satisfied."

It's almost enough to make me shift my loyalties to Detroit. It's an affirmation of some pretty good values. Into the bust of those is the power of example.

It's not what you say but what you do that imparts lifelong lessons. You can lecture your kids about the importance of learning and education, but if you spend your Sundays in the mall, get and stagger home late at night smirking of sin, there's precious little leave of learning you'll encourage. That all that may that in the eyes of your child, what you do takes on an entirely different meaning from what you say. Joe Dumars is a well-known and beloved figure in the NBA. He recently accomplished his greatest feat yet, and it had nothing to do with basketball.

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Asian alternatives to the G7 bank bailout

WORLD VIEW

Abe De Ramos

WHAT DOESN'T KILL YOU MAKES YOU stronger, the saying goes. Yet, for all the excitement from the rescue packages that the United States and Europe have unveiled, it remains unclear whether these kitchen-sink policies are potent enough to offset banks' efforts to quickly recover from the credit crisis.

The trillion-dollar commitments made so far by governments, with the exception of Britain's, have been framed toward restoring market confidence instead of breaking the core of what ails banks. As it might be a good idea for them to look to Asia to help get the job done, and do it right, both in terms of strategy and funding.

Ending the crisis requires not only easing liquidity but also repairing banks' balance sheets and restoring their capital base. While the former could be a systematic approach, the solutions offered have been disjointed or inadequate. Guarantees on interbank lending won't reduce bad loans, just like buying bad loans won't improve banks' ability to lend. Both steps would require more and more capital that governments ignore—unlike ones that are just as likely badly exposed to subprime debt and thus unable to serve the local businesses and customers that offer the security.

One of the astounding things about the ongoing efforts to resolve the crisis has been the lack of a clear initiative to inspect banks' balance sheets (the roughly beginners need to know just how many banks are in trouble and appreciate the size of their problems) and then to recapitalize and implement targeted solutions. The measures that Asian governments took to repair their financial sectors during the Asian crisis 10 years ago could provide a template for the financial meltdown.

Some governments learned harshly from the International Monetary Fund to limit outdoor crumbling financial systems. They narrowed the breadth of major financial institutions, and then ordered only insolvent institutions to close. The incapable non-performing loans to a group of bad banks without as well as restructuring agencies to clear insolvent banks, nationalize ailing ones and recapitalize them.

Their opinion that Western regulators can pursue to boost their banks is to bring in more sovereign wealth funds (SWFs) and large financial institutions, learning from their own hardships has helped some Asian countries become the safe-as-it's sovereigns they are today. China, which dealt with its own bad loan problems in the first half of this decade, now has nearly $1 trillion in foreign reserves, almost three times the size of the US federal budget.

There is no reason why the US and Europe should not take advantage of the wealth of Asian institutions. This would help reduce the cost to taxpayers of the bailout, and, by keeping bigger banks in the hands of major players, the government could focus on consolidating and rehabilitating the smaller banks and thrifts that serve a greater number of consumers.

In return, the Asian institutions would have a chance to get the rich returns they desperately seek but cannot receive at home. SWFs are meant to diversify state investments to higher-risk, higher-return assets. China, Korea, Singapore and Japan all have aging populations and massive pension obligations that will require investment banking. Likewise, many of their banks are overcapitalized with nowhere to go after the Asian crisis and the Japanese asset bubble of the 1990s, compounded have become conservative borrowers, while banks' expansion plans to expand outside the region remain limited by restrictions on foreign ownership of local banks.

Unfortunately, some SWFs that invested in financial institutions in the earlier part of the year have seen the value of their stakes plummet. But it would be foolish to make that a reason for ignoring the opportunities before them now.

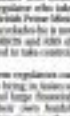
It therefore behooves the US and Europe to reach out to Asian institutions. A key to the success of Asia's rescue-planning efforts, despite massive social, political, and economic obstacles, is the disciplined and systematic way in which each market deals with its banks to reorganize the sector. This approach, to be fair, hasn't always been the case in Asia. One can also envision the global economy stagnating should have the luxury of taking their time.

Project Syndicate

Abe De Ramos, an economy fellow of the Asia Society, is a Hong Kong-based financial editor and a former policy analyst at the OSI Institute's Center for Financial Markets Integrity.

Ethics and migration

AT LARGE



Rina Jimenez-David

THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE Rights of Migrant Workers and their families has been in existence since 1990 and entered into effect in 2003. But today, only 75 states have signed and ratified the treaty, most of them countries of origin of migrant workers, including the Philippines.

That even if a country, especially a country of destination, has not signed the Convention, it may have many laws and regulations and practices in progress that can protect the rights of migrant workers," points out Ramdas Dandjan Jr., foreign undersecretary for Migrant Workers' Affairs.

That is one goal of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, a two-part international meeting that kicks off in Manila on Oct. 27. Delegates hope to come out at the end of the event with a listing and discussion of "best practices" that everyone involved—from governments to the workers themselves, from employers to recruiters—can adopt to ensure not only that workers are protected while foreign lands, but also that destination states are able to harness the labor and talents of migrants for development.

The forum opens on Oct. 27 with a two-day civil society meeting of country groups, convened by the Asian Foundation, to gather the thinking of the private sector, migrants' groups and other concerned parties. The outcome documents from this meeting will then be channeled into the ground-breaking Global Forum on Oct. 29 and 30, with government representatives participating.

One example of a "best practice" that Gonzales cites is the opening of a "domestic workers desk" in a police station in Jeddah in Saudi Arabia, whether the Philippine Consulate is also present. The desk, which receives complaints of abuse or violation from domestic workers in Saudi families, has made a big difference in the lives of Filipina domestic workers, says Gonzales, and is an example of a "small" step resulting in lots of practical good.

* * *

CONSIDER Rosario, who used to speak in the above years since he joined the Department of Foreign Affairs, landing after the outbreak of OFWs has been his main focus. When he took his post in 2006, says Gonzales, there were 60 death penalty cases involving OFWs, ranging from murder charges against maids in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, to illegal cultural cases for those in Malaysia and China.

Of these 60 cases, 24 have been commuted to life or lengthy imprisonment, of which 11 have since gone home. "We're also monitoring the 36 cases still pending," the undersecretary says, but pleads for understanding from the workers' families, especially of the different legal and cultural systems in the countries where the incarcerated migrants are.

Governments of destination countries, Gonzales reminds, should keep in mind that migrants and foreign workers have much to contribute to the host country. But to harness the talents of migrants, and for migrants to be able to contribute to development, "their rights must be protected," says Gonzales. Both Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong of Singapore and Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Najib Razak have echoed this sentiment.

* * *

BUT for both "sending" and "receiving" countries to negotiate for the protection of workers, their representatives must come to the table as equals, respected of the sovereignty and authority of both sides, and mindful of the fact that all of the decisions made are ultimately for the benefit of the people they have elected.

This is the thinking underpinning the concept of "ethical recruitment," especially of health workers from developing countries, whose departure due to work in developed countries would have disastrous consequences for the health of the people they have elected.

Secretary Health Secretary Jaime Galvez Tan is working to address the problem, but a paper on the health-care shortfall, to be released soon, was the very last study to call attention to the issue, and included in it other paper were not suggested to make the exchange fair or not mutually beneficial.

Recently, Tan was in discussions with officials of Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba and Saskatchewan—all Canadian provinces—which have expressed interest in hiring nurses from the Philippines" as partners to ensure ethical recruitment through what Tan calls "win-win bilateral agreements."

Among the suggested measures in the development aid is "Triad Mode" for Health Human Resources Development" in which the "importing" country provides scholarships and support for the "improvement of health care delivery services, training and education of local health workers in the country" in order that it would be ready for the "orderly, ethical and trained professionals." For its part, says Tan, "the source country will ensure a steady cohort of qualified health professionals through ethical recruitment practices."

DFA proposes the setting up of a Philippine-Canadian Fair Health Trade Partnership in compliance these principles: Ethical Employment Education for both decision makers (school administrators, faculty members, etc.) and health workers; a Circle of Excellence in nursing training and education, and Migration Watch, to take charge of monitoring of arrangements and working conditions of migrant health workers.

In a phone interview, Tan says: "Labor migration trend not always be a one-way ticket with losing the gap between poor and rich countries. We need reverse ethical, fair and transparent agreements through win-win partnerships in the spirit of global solidarity."

Perhaps this is the mindset that everyone involved in advocating for migrant rights should bring to the table, especially during the upcoming Global Forum, where countries, in a league, talk to each other as equals, each earning something the other has.

What's in a pen name?

LOOKING BACK

Isabelle R. Gerancejo

AFTER THE SEMESTRAL BREAK, I SHOULD really take the time to return to the University of the Philippines to take up my graduate studies. I'm naive on the rest of the pseudonyms listed on those exhausting pieces of newspaper in that forgotten drawer of useless information. The list is only useful to literary historians, and I do wonder who was the strange bird who compiled all this data. Did he do it for what? Fame? Or was he just bored/frustrated or is there someone still compiling pseudonyms, nicknames and pen names, bringing everything (e.g., "Jose Velarde" and "Gats") up to date?

In recent political history, one only has to look at the names of the Marcos cronies to realize that many owed his conquering Cronies: C. Aquino (as "Cory" and Joseph Ejercito Estrada (as "Erap," "Jo del Mundo" Ramos (a "Eddie" to friends, "Edsalve" to those fleeced on the sale personalized cigars he would show on, and "FVR" to the media. It is also significant that Cory and Erap were referred to by the familiar, while others were known by their initials. One oddity though was that while President Marcos was referred to as "FM," his wife Imelda was never referred to as "IM," the initials in her personalized license plates, rather she was simply "Imelda" or "First Lady," the way that Jose Miguel Arroyo, the current First Gentleman, is referred to as "FG," President Estrada's spouse was simply "Loi," and Ramos' spouse was just "Ming." I still leave the political analysis on names and nicknames to frankly bored and the anthropological analysis to the bored. Perhaps someone should really look into all this someday because it may reveal something about us as a people.

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is definitely a nonentity, as she has been shortened to "GMA." Unfortunately, those initials can also stand for "Greater Mercy, Inc.," before Marcos-era technocrats restructured the word Metropolitan or Manila Metro GMA, depending on the context, can either mean the President or a cache maker or the television network GMA7. To avoid this confusion and instill some respect in government employees (who should not address the President in the first person/name mentioned "GMA" into the formal "PG, MP, the President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo). The initials "P" is for the dullards who don't know or don't recognize her as president.

With regard to signatures, those familiar with documents emanating from Malacañang know that the President usually signs important papers with her full name. There are some documents signed only with her married name—"Gloria Arroyo"—and, if in a hurry, with the simple initial "Gloria." Does the shortest signal "G" and the latest case for the surname.) In rare moments, the President issue orders in her more personal with the familiar "Gloria." Naturally, no document signed by the President has ever been signed by anyone else, and no one is encouraged by Executive Secretary Ermita signs, with his new familiar second under the words "By the President." This may justify explain why executive secretaries—from Jorge Vargas under Manuel Quezon to Ermita under Arroyo—are referred to as "Ed" to their friends. Ermita does not enroll details, trivial to most, but they must be significant in some way.

Going back to the UP list of pseudonyms, Jose Rizal, a writer and poet in Spanish, used the pseudonym "Dimasalang," a type of wound. Jose Corazon de Jesus was called "Huseng Batute." Teodoro Agoncillo's name was called "Teddy." Virgilio Almario, who was at Tagalog University but was born in Rizal's close to the Pasig, used "Rio Alma" which, when further contracted, became "Rigodon."

Others played on their initials...like the lolling, vigilant patriot in fireworks who was simply "B.A.G.," "Tab" or "Tarpeli Tatoloan." Chris M. Baron was a poet before he became a senator, no, consider you, and never name, as he signed himself "Chris Baraud." Sapanganpan playright Jose Ernanzeno (one was simply "Ernano," and Ernanzeno became a poem known in literature as "Ernanzeno."

Some writers actually make the trouble to make allusions to earlier and greater literature before the poet Cecilio Apostol used "Caralio," "Caligue" and "Caligue." Felipe Calderon took names from Rizal's novels and called himself "Pilosofo Tasyo" or "Filosofo Tasyo." Alejandro G. del Pilar had a number of names, "Laraneta," "El Cronta," "H.M. Calero," "Mabini," "Bagang," and "M. Kasi." Jose Mo. Hernando was known as "Amado Guerrero," the Native appearing in the book "Philippine Society and Revolution." I don't know to paragraph my little self book and be signed with "Jose Mo. Hero"—with a dot at a flourish at the end of the signature. I then asked why he chose that name and he chuckled "it means 'Reborn! Positive.'" He then added that he was not so conceited as someone else in the movement who signed his name "Salvador del Mundo" (Savior of the World).

Come to think of it, the hard-hitting pre-war newspaper columnist Amando Doyle used the pseudonym "Cyclops," which could either mean the monster in Greek mythology or that he was the one-eyed monster in the kingdom of the blind.

Perhaps it should be the same road by the door of the UP College of Arts and Letters where the signs official papers, but where the name takes hold of him for he becomes "the Hero" more and more.

What prompted Rolando Macapagal, the great diarist, to give a poet to earlier life, to take the name "Rolando Dimasalang"?

What is a pen name or pseudonym? Also

Comments are welcome at isgerancejo@yahoo.com

Bird tourism

WHENEVER I HAVE VISITORS COMING IN FROM OTHER countries, I e-mail them, asking if there's something in particular that they want to do or see in the Philippines. Last year, with one particular American visitor, I was surprised when he e-mailed back and said he wanted to see birds.

Fortunately, it was an interest I had as well. Only a few months earlier, I had joined two bird-watching tours organized by the World Bird Club of the Philippines as I was able to arrange for the bird-watching quite quickly. Conservatively, one of the best birding sites in the country is the UP campus, where my visitor, Jim, was staying. This year, when Jim came visiting again, he joined another birding tour organized by the Club.

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

I would like to think Jim will be one of many foreigners visiting the Philippines in the years to come, coming to enjoy our eco-tourism activities. Bird-watching will undoubtedly be a major attraction since we have 600 different bird species, 200 of which are endemic, meaning, they are found only in the Philippines.

Therefore, it is surprising how little attention we have put into build bird tourism, and he's walked the talk by supporting the publication of what will be a series of manuals, "Bird-watching in the Philippines." Volume 1 was launched last September, produced within a few months by the Department of Tourism, the Philippine Tourism Authority (PTA) and the Recreational Outdoor Exchange. The manual was written by Carlos M. Librando Jr., and Robert Alejandro handled the book design. Amel Tolentino did the Chavayan, many photographs came from a team of professional photographers, all kind members themselves.

The manual is a guide to several bird-watching areas. Puerto Princesa in Palawan natural Park; Bohol Bird Park, Rizal Island (Luzon, Palawan); Rombrel Islands National Park; Bangpis Marine Protected Area (Bais), Pangasinan); Subic Bay Freeport Zone; Balanga City (Bataan); Candaba Marsh (Pampanga); Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat; Mt. Palay-Palay National Park (Nueva Ecija); Pila Nature Center (Laguna Quezon); Sierra Puerco (Cebu); Olango Island Wildlife Sanctuary (Lapu-Lapu City) and the Philippine Eagle Center (Davao City).

I intentionally missed all the sites to show that there's bound to be a good bird-watching site near you. When the other volumes come out, I'm hoping we'll have a guide to UP Diliman as well. Despite its urban setting, UP is one of the way up to birds and so far, UP Diliman has chalked up almost a hundred bird species. (We'll leave the basketball to La Salle for now.)

Now that I've gotten you excited about the manual, I have some bad news: it's not available yet in our bookstores. Apparently, some problems bringing in foreign-exchange books given printing. I got my copy through the Wild Bird Club, which had a few copies available for its members.

Environmentalism

I'm hoping that, eventually, not just the tourism department but also the Department of Environment and Natural Resources will take up the cudgel for bird-watching and bird tourism for the species. After my interview friend Jim got back from his UP bird-watching, I was almost embarrassed as he turned off kinds of birds that he had seen, birds which I wasn't familiar with. In the DOT manual, several sites were listed with a note that local species were not included, which means the bird watchers will have to rely on the manual at some of the other guides, produced mainly by foreigners. (The best one, published by Global, is "A Guide to the Birds of the Philippines" by Robert S. Kennedy, Pedro C. Gonzales, Edward C. Dickinson, Hector C. Miranda Jr. and Timothy H. Fisher. I got my copy from Powerbooks a few years ago.)

Promoting bird-watching shouldn't be an activity for foreigners alone, or for the upper classes with leisure time to enjoy it. Bird-watching should be part of education on science and the environment. Biology textbooks usually order us to study the birds and bees, but I've yet to see important kinds of books showed how diverse bird species adapted to the environment. Only after I joined the bird-watching tours did I integrate photographs of our local birds to explain evolution and adaptation, which become so much more real as students appreciate why the mupo has such a short beak compared to the kalaw's long one.

"What are many kinds of birds in the Philippines...wood-peckers, herons, sunbirds, flycatchers, eagles, hawks, sparrows—there's so much biology that can be taught, painlessly, pointing out differences in feathers, colors, legs, wingspan, even socialization patterns.

Birdlines

Bird-watching isn't some imported western fad. Birds are impossible to ignore and all cultures, including our own, have observed those amazing creatures, naming them, interpreting them in song and dance and, really, capturing them for their plumage, their beaks (the basis of baraddi), their eggs, their meat.

How do we express the many human pleasures this connects had lost? Children's books and TV programs can exercise the birds from our folklore, from songs and riddles to epics. We've even made up mythical ones like the sarimanok.

Learn to appreciate the folk names around birds. How names show that we've intimately the birds were observed. Recognizing the variations in environment, we have pipit sapsap, pipit pahit, pipit parang. Its example. The blue rock thrush is called salimpay, telling us this bird isn't the invisible type.

From the Cebuano (ulitao [second somewhat] to the ga-ni-li-ik (Philippine woodpecker), many bird names are onomatopoeic, taken from their calls. The name from one bird gave it a local name, salt salt, it as well as the English chasm-used word warbler.

My social science side makes me wonder at times about how we keep oscillating about a national bird. At one time it was the Philippine eagle, then the tarsier, but I still continue to ask if it reflected our tendency to think small. As we shifted, almost as if to compliments, to the fierce monkey-eating eagle. Does it say something about our society?

Enough of pop psychology for now. I did want to plug bird tourism, a photographic exhibit of Philippine birds at the UP Vargas Museum, which features the award-winning photographs of birds, from close-ups to birds in flight, many almost as if the birds were posing for the photographers. The exhibit was supposed to end early October but has been extended to the 26th, so precisely have this week left.

You can also still sign up for our more guided bird-watching expedition at UP Diliman, in the bird's first half-day at 6 a.m. Joining our bird-birding makes you eligible to join the Wild Bird Club. For more information, contact the Vargas Museum mail at 928-1927, or email vargasmuseum@gmail.com. Alternatively, you can look at the Wild Bird Club website: www.birdwatching.ph.

Roots of our country's failed economic policies

LETTERS

INQUIRER'S OCT. 12 EDITORIAL, "THE Arroyo Math," while prescriptive, did not go back far enough in our history to expose the roots of our failed economic policies.

Since the American colonization, our political leadership has been basically divided between those for assimilation by and servility to the colonial powers and those for complete and absolute independence for our country.

Then in the first Philippine election in 1907, the main contending parties were the Progresistas, a spin-off from the Federalistas Party that advocated the assimilation of the Philippines by the United States, and the Nacionalista Party that championed complete, absolute and immediate independence. The NPC rammed the Progresistas, winning 59 of 80 seats at stake.

The thinking of the NP majority at that time can be gleaned from its resolution opposing "free trade" in relation to a bill allowing American products to enter the Philippines duty-free. The resolution denied free trade with the United States on "highly prejudicial to the economic interests of the Filipino people" and an obstacle to "the attainment of Philippine independence."

By July 4, 1946, when we were "granted" our independence, the NP had split up, with one faction, led by Senate President Manuel Roxas, forming the Liberal Party. Roxas promised to maintain the free trade arrangement even after independence. Roxas, after Roxas was elected, the LP assumed the mantle of the Federalistas/Progresistas and practiced the inclusion of the Platt-Amendment in our Constitution, giving Americans equal rights with Filipinos for 25 years (later extended under the Laurel-Langley Agreement).

Ever since, our leadership has been divided between the nationalistas and the "federalistas/Progresistas" of today who believe that the Philippines cannot survive or prosper without a special relationship or partnership with a powerful and rich country. The latter faction continued to dominate our national institutions except for a brief period in the '50s when import and exchange controls and the "Filipino First" policy were adopted by the NP administration of President Carlos Garcia, making the Philippines second to Japan in economic growth in Asia. And this explains why the Japan-Philippine Partnership Economic Agreement has been passed by the Senate. The Philippines, a Quisling Power to the Greater Asian Co-Prosperity Sphere? Not yet, but something stinks!

Free trade is a component of the "free market" philosophy that shuns regulations. It is believed to be the main cause of the financial meltdown. But is more ravaging the country by allowing with a powerful ruling line trade would progress if all players, foreign and domestic, would compete unregulated on an even playing field. It follows that the players are not equal and that there are big and small players, and that the small players, including in developing countries—even in their own turf—would be unable to compete with the big ones. Unable to compete, they and their people remain vassals. And vassals all over the world are poor.

—MANUEL P. ALMARIO
Reviewed by: Trail to History (MTTE)
mlalmario@yahoo.com

Noynoy was right: the Philippines has moved backward

IN HIS LETTER, RAUL ALEJANDRO MORO mentioned that during martial law, corruption was unchecked, civil liberties and mass media were repressed, the ranks of the rebels swelled, and in the economy crony capitalists, capital flight and dollar-selling were commonplace. (Inquirer, 9/27/08)

We must remember that most of these things happened after Ninoy Aquino died. And these were followed by destabilization, rallies and all forms of activities leading to the irreversible instability of the country, which was initiated by the opposition at that time.

Before Ninoy died, the country had a direction; many worthwhile projects were on stream, and there was the all important political will in the air/there. There were no blackouts, no manufacturing and use of illegal drugs, and crimes in general were held in check. Mendiola, after a while, became quiet. We were also tutored by high fuel prices but we were able to survive because the peso was only seven to the dollar.

Yes, there was limited press freedom but we were able to take this in stride because most of the suppression was on activities of the established mass/just like in the clip-mute of the papers.

Economically we have been overtaken by Thailand and recently by Vietnam, a situation Filipinos thought was unthinkable during Marcos' watch. The annual budgets of Bicutan were very small compared to the recent ones, and government personnel then were disciplined and efficient.

Many people are now saying that had Ninoy not died, the infamous case of Manila Bay would now be as far as Tarlac, Cavite, with the reclamation work soon to start on the Bulacan, Pampanga, Bataan provinces; the North Expressway would now be to the three provinces and the South Expressway would be to Bicol, the planned 12 LRT-1 would now be complete, so much so that some taking a ride from, say, Bora-Isla in Mandaluyong City would be less than from Del Monte. Business would be flourishing, and we should be experiencing by now the blessings of an emerging First World country.

Yes, Noynoy Aquino was right when he said that our country is now where it was around after 21 years, but gone backward.

—ROGELIO SORIANO,
417 Batalaan St.,
Fairview Subdivision,
Mandaluyong City

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Las Piñas residents support Villar in C-5 road extension controversy

THIS IS IN REACTION TO THE news item on the alleged double appropriation for the C-5 road extension project. Mr. residents of Las Piñas City would like to laud Senate President Manuel Villar for his efforts to get funding for the project which will certainly benefit us.

Every day, as we go to work and return home, we suffer the heavy traffic along the Coastal Road. The C-5 road extension will greatly ease the traffic congestion in our area and relieve stress. This is definitely a "road to more productive work," not a "road to nowhere" as some people assume the public to mean.

We appreciate what the Senate president is doing and we encourage him to continue working for what is best for the country. His actions don't benefit the commuting public and many other citizens speak louder than the unfounded allegations of his detractors.

—CHRISTO D. ALVARO,
chrisgmail@yahoo.com

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Bids and Awards Committee
CW-08-09-40-047
Re-Bid
INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
The Provincial Government of Bukidnon, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites prospective registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and thereafter eligible to bid for the hereunder contract:
Name of contract: Construction of 62 Housing units of Bukidnon Housing Project Phase III
Location: Lantapan, Malaybalay, Maramag, Valencia City, Bukidnon
Contract Reference Number: CW-08-09-40-047
Approved Budget for the Contract: P15,500,000.00
Contract Duration: 90 days
Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have complied to similar contract/s with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and must submit the latest income and equipment declaration to the Bureau of Internal Revenue for the preparation of this contract. The BAC will use, to the extent necessary, pass/fail criteria to rate Eligibility characteristics as set out in the Philippine Contractors of Bids. The BAC will not accept applications after deadline.
All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation Criteria, Post-Qualification, and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

1.	Advertisement	October 10-16, 2008
2.	Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Applications for Eligibility Forms	November 3, 2008 to 5:00 p.m. only
3.	Review of Received Eligibility Docs.	November 3, 2008
4.	Issuance of Pre-Bid Bulletin	November 5-7, 2008
5.	Pre-bid conference	November 10, 2008, 10:00 a.m.
6.	Receipt of Bid Documents	November 14, 2008, 9:00 a.m.
7.	Opening and Opening of Bids	November 14, 2008, 10:00 a.m.

The BAC will issue a competent and Unlimited Eligibility Certificate upon the submission of: (1) duly accomplished application for eligibility and (2) the following documents: (a) Income and Business Tax Returns for the preceding calendar year duly stamped received by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) or by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB)

Across the NATION

De Oro shops, malls close in protest

BED SPACE
Street orphans in Naga City find comfort in a shanty via afternoon following a city's search for food

CAGAYAN DE ORO City—A business shutdown has turned this city's busiest commercial district into a virtual ghost town Tuesday as private offices, stores and malls closed shop to press for the ouster of a Bureau of Internal Revenue official here.

The protest action, dubbed "Sara Protesta," was launched by major business players to seek the ouster of Northern Mindanao fifth regional director Mustapha Guiabar, who they accused of "harassment" and of being arbitrary.

Among those who participated in the protest are the owners of Limasan and Liceo de Cagayan schools, Rustenvorum, who closed their respective establishments, said they were forfeiting millions of pesos in expected revenues during the one-day shutdown.

Banks, some drug chainstores and video houses, the city's several clinics, were closed.

Few transactions

Finance institutions, such as banks and lending offices, and gasoline outlets had been exempted from the protest movement but only a few people were seen transacting with them.

Regional branches of Manila-based corporations also did not participate in the shutdown.

Lawyer Oscar Moore, spokesperson of the Coalition of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, said the protest participated over 90 percent of the local industry.

"The coalition has no intention to paralyze the local economy but to demonstrate its concern to put a stop to harassment against business by Director Guiabar," he said.

Mayor Constantino Jaraula has also allowed city hall employees to report for work on their chosen schedules as a show of sympathy to the protest.

In a position paper, the coalition said Guiabar had been "issuing bunches of Letters of Authority (LOs) and Mission Orders (MOs) to conduct tax examination on the heels of the annual tax audit."

Loud and clear

Rustenvorum Festerne Cruz, a member of the coalition, called the protest one "first in the country."

"We haven't seen this kind of unity from business. They (businessmen) are sacrificing a lot in doing this protest. This should also be an eye opener to the government... that we can stand up against corruption. We need change," Cruz said.

Oro Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Rodolfo Mohles said "even if we don't march on the streets, the business holiday sends the message loud and clear."

"What we are doing is passive resistance. This is merely for self-defense," Mohles said.

Jaraula said a dialogue between the traders and Guiabaross last week failed when officials of the chamber of commerce did not show up.

He also said the Philippine Daily Inquirer that Guiabar had been summoned to Manila apparently to discuss the situation with his superiors.

"Barbas for left. I asked Director Guiabar to suspend all LOs and I do that he issued," Jaraula said.

But Abant said the issuance of LOs and IAs have continued, thus the decision of the businessmen to push through with the protest.

—Cecilio Pedrosa, Inquirer Mindanao

Panlilio lawyer says recall 'fatally defective'

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The recall petition filed against Pampanga Gov. Eddie Panlilio is "fatally defective in form and substance," the governor's lawyer said on Tuesday.

"All the signature sheets of those allegedly supporting the recall do not contain a 'brief narration of the reasons and justifications for the filing of the petition' as required under Section 8.d of Comelec Resolution No. 7783 or the Rules for Recall dated June 8, 2005," Rosendo Almeda said by telephone.

He said the signature sheets merely said, "loss of confidence" as a ground for removing the Catholic priest-turned-governor from office.

That lack, he said, does not comply with the requirement of the rules.

"The procedure for recall election should be strictly followed. Thus a mere statement of 'loss of confidence' is not sufficient as it can't be considered as a 'brief narration of the reasons and justifications' of recall as required by the rules," he said later in a text message.

Henry Hernon, president of the Kapampangan Ecclesiastical Movement for Democratic Action (Kedkad), the group that filed the recall petition on Oct. 15, said Macalintal might not have read the petition.

"He better read it first," said Hernon, a close ally of defeated gubernatorial candidate Lito "Baby" Pineda, to the 10-page petition, Kedkad has gathered 10 signatures for loss of confidence on three major issues.

The first referred to alleged quarry anomalies mentioned in the resolutions of the provincial board that endorsed the complaint of former quarry workers Noel Mallari and Ayie Aquino against their illegal termination.

This included the case filed by the board against Panlilio with the office of the Ombudsman for his refusal to implement the new quarry law, Ordinance No. 176.

The ordinances increased the revenue shares of towns and gave more powers to the mayors to regulate the sand and gravel.

The second involved a perjury case filed by losing gubernatorial bet Elly Pamintuan, who claimed that Panlilio misdirected the electoral campaign contributions he received last year.

The third pertained to a case for reduction of the Magsaysay Center of Public Health Workers filed by Dr. Edelle Punla following the reassignments of doctors in the province's district hospitals.

"[These] constitute no less than loss of confidence sufficient to recall [Panlilio], so as to give the people of Pampanga another chance to elect a governor who is competent and able to lead the province of Pampanga to move forward," part of the petition said.

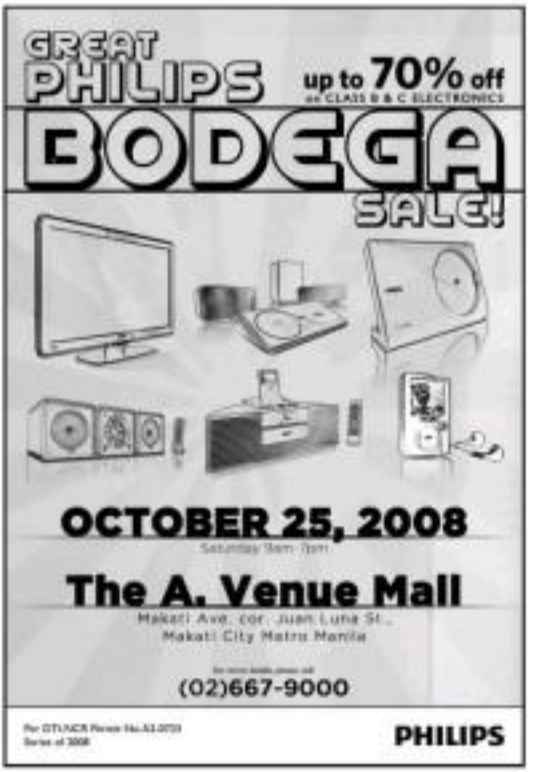
Macalintal also said the Pampanga election supervisor, Jessie Lacanilao, had found that 20,080 of the 224,075 persons were not in the list of the province's registered voters.

Brushed by phone, Lacanilao declined comment, saying that the case was now with the Commission on Elections central office.

The Comelec en banc was expected to issue a resolution on the petition on or before Oct. 30, he said.

Macalintal said the alleged inclusion of non-voters could also be one of the grounds to deny due course to the petition.

He said the plan of the provincial board to appropriate P25 million for the recall was illegal. Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon



MILF rebs release abducted MSU professor

NOT BORACAY
A resort in Sta. Fe town in Bantayan Island in the province of Cebu offers breathtaking views of the ocean at night. This particular resort is one of dozens that have been built on the island, some offering affordable rates.
TOTO LOZANO/PDI

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CARING FOR YOUR HEALTH SINCE 1959

GUIMARAS CITY—SUSPECTED Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) rebels under Abdullah Macapaar alias Commander Intoy had released on Monday the Mindanao State University (MSU) official they abducted last week, the police said yesterday.

Chief Supt. Bernard Johnson, police director for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), told the Inquirer by phone that Hipolito Mabata, MSU budget officer, was released by his captors in Masiu City Mayor Mangkar Datih around 4 p.m.

He said no ransom was paid when Mabata was freed in Barangay Kachingilan in Sapakan, Lanao del Sur (not Lanao del Norte as earlier reported).

"The kidnappers were presented. He (Mabata) was turned over to his family and to MSU officials right after he was freed," Johnson said.

Mabata, 54, was driving home with his wife in Iligan City from the MSU campus in Marawi City when armed men flagged him down in Barangay Bubong in Sapatmun on Oct. 16.

At the developed, Senior Supt. Danilo Barru, spokesperson of the ARMM police, said charges of illegal detention were already filed against suspects Yusuph Baagas of Iligan City and Sahabudin Sarong and Asher Salmar, who were arrested in connection with Mabata's abduction.

It was the three suspects who implicated Intoy in the kidnapping.

Eid Kabalu, MILF civil-military affairs chief, had denied Intoy's involvement in the kidnapping.

Kabalu said the police should dig deeper because many groups not connected to the MILF were responsible for various cases of abduction in the Lanao provinces.

Asked to comment on the confession of the suspects, Kabalu said most criminals in Lanao wanted to be associated with the MILF for obvious reasons.

"They wanted to project that they are powerful and organized," he said.

Permit operations were ongoing for the suspects, who are believed to be MILF rebels. The MILF leadership has denied they were behind the abduction.

The MILF has been locked in intense gun battles with troops on Mindanao since August, after the Supreme Court blocked a deal with government that would have given them control of a Muslim autonomous region.

Two aid workers are still in the hands of kidnappers, however.

There has been no word yet on the fate of the aid workers although the military earlier said a rescue operation was being considered.

Kidnappings in Mindanao were believed perpetrated by guerrillas with links to the Al Qaida terrorist network. *Michel Ursal, Inquirer Mindanao and AFP*

NEWSBRIEFS

■ LA TRINIDAD, Benguet

PNP mulls 'Iniay Pulis'

DIRECTOR General Jesus Verzosa, Philippine National Police chief, said a police program in the Cordillera called "Manang Pulis," in which policewomen are required to wear native costumes, will be copied in other regions.

"This is to make the PNP closer to the community by adopting the culture of the community where they are found," he said.

Verzosa said the Cordillera's "Manang Pulis" is the first of its kind for "the PNP in the country. He said in Cebu, for instance, the "Inday Pulis" could be adopted.

Dalmar Dantes, Inquirer Northern Luzon

■ DAVAO CITY

4 inmates flee Davao jail

FOUR inmates escaped from the detention cell of a police station here on Saturday dawn.

Maj. Quencher Montalong, public information officer of the Police Southern Mindanao Command, said the desk officer and other policemen manning the Sta. Ana police station will be investigated, following the jailbreak at 4 a.m. Saturday.

The escapees were Rolando Anda, 30; Yuniel Nuna, 18; Carlo Acampado, 19; and Marvin Magpoli, 18.

Edwar Jay Santos, Inquirer Mindanao

■ BACOLOD CITY

Erap's list of 2010 bets

FORMER President Joseph Estrada said he would continue rallying the opposition to unite behind a single candidate for president in 2010.

Santiago visit to a church that he helped build in the city. Estrada named Senators Miriam Defensor Santiago, Manuel Villar, Francis Escudero, Panfilo Lacson, and Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay as possible opposition candidates for 2010.

Estrada was convicted by the Sandiganbayan of plunder but was set free after his ouster denied by President Macapagal Arroyo.

Carla P. Gomez, Inquirer Visayas

■ PAGUT, North Cotabato

Militiaman gunned down

A CIVILIAN militiaman was gunned down while a village secretary survived a grenade attack here on Saturday, a police report said.

Romeo Elinopot, member of the Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit, was alighting from his motorcycle when two men attackers from behind, killing him instantly. The man took his firearm and fled, said with about P10,000.

Hours after that, a grenade exploded in the house of Brig Mogok, secretary of the village of Malapan. Malapan was not hurt in the attack.

Charlie C. Zaldua, Inquirer Mindanao

■ NUEVA ECIJA

Judges' group elects execs

THE PHILIPPINE Judges Association-Nueva Ecija Chapter recently elected its officers and directors for 2008-2010.

Elected president was Santiago Arenas, judge of Regional Trial Court Branch 89 in Sto. Domingo. Marina Dulja, Tecnia Talavera, vice-president, MTC Branch 30 in Cabanatuan City; Tenuflo Cruz, secretary, MTC Branch 36 in Cabanatuan City; Evelyn Bona-Lubugan, treasurer, RTC Branch 28 in Cabanatuan City; Primo G. Sto. Jr., press relations officer, RTC Branch 20 in Cabanatuan City; Virgilio Caballero, business manager, RTC Branch 30 in Cabanatuan City; and Honorio Palmiste, RTC Branch 33 in Gumma, Nueva Ecija.

INQUIRER Northern Luzon

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inquirer.net/regions
Editor Jun Bandayrel
Across Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

A look inside Pangasinan capitol

By Gabriel Cardenas
Lingayen, Pangasinan

THERE'S A NEW TOUCH OF ELEGANCE inside the Pangasinan provincial capitol. The once drab interior of the sprawling pre-World War II structure is now a glowing display of lush diamond and modern art and beauty.

Thanks to the craftsmanship of two young designers who executed what Gov. Amado Espino Jr. had wanted them to do.

"This was both a renovation and restoration work," says 28-year-old designer Hank Sibug. "We did not touch the exterior. Inside we built the offices based on what the governor decided."

It took Sibug and his colleague, Bernard Bernal, almost a year to complete the work.

During its inauguration in July, provincial government employees and guests were awed at the spacious and brighter capitol lobby. A large wooden provincial seal had become the lobby's centerpiece.

"Suddenly, I felt so proud and dignified I went to this 'building,'" said Ramon Montero, Espino's executive assistant.

The capitol's ground floor, which used to house the offices of the treasurer, budget officer, planning and development officer and personnel officer, has been converted into individual offices of the province's 14 board members.

On the second floor, which is accessed by a long, semicircular staircase, the governor's office was built, the first time after many years that a governor held office again at the capitol. The Sangguniang Panlalawigan (provincial board) session hall, vice governor's office and the auditor's office. Only the session hall and the vice governor's office were retained.

THE PANGASINAN provincial capitol

THE GOVERNOR'S office

Challenging

"This was a very challenging job," Sibug said.

All of the offices were enclosed by wooden panels and adorned by French windows with transparent glasses along the corridors, making it easier for anyone to see the officials and employees inside at work.

These were furnished with furniture made of hardwood with manually engineered oil or varnishing.

"But in a mix of classical and modern design, we matched it with the exterior design of the capitol para di nakakasawang ingnan (so that it will be pleasing to the eye)," Sibug says.

Chandeliers now also adorn the capitol's ceiling and stylish wall lamps light its hallways.

According to historian Rosario Mendoza Cortes, the construction of the capitol began on April 21, 1917, and was completed in December the following year during the incumbency of Governor Epifanio de los Santos.

It was heavily damaged during World War II and was renovated in 1949.

"[The Pangasinan capitol from] the most beautiful building at the time it was built," Cortes wrote in her book, "Pangasinan: 1901-1986: A Political, Socioeconomic and Cultural History."

The capitol was a typical American colonial architectural design at that time with its central part topped by a triangular pediment, domed (tooth-like) molding at the base of its roof and the Greek Roman Ionic columns.

"The old building is of American vintage. So, it's a very historical government institution, which you cannot also erase ahead," says Espino, governor of the Pangasinan Council of Tourism Industries, a nongovernment organization of tourism-related businesses in the province.

Espino says the capitol renovation is timely, seeing it is the province's biggest asset in terms of tourism value.

"This is a historical site and all the other monuments that we have are here. So Governor Espino was right to prioritize its renovation as we can be proud of our province," she says.

As the chief of his term just nears, Espino said all he wanted was to have a highly organized and highly motivated provincial government by improving their work places and posting down salaries they should be.

It was here that he realized that all elective officials of the provincial government should hold office at the capitol.

"I consider the capitol as the heart, the soul and the brains of the province. So, I started here," Espino said. "So I announced then that if we will have tourism here, local tourists, for that matters, it should start in the capitol."

Espino says the capitol would now be part of an itinerary for educational and historical tour packages in the province, which is also home to several natural attractions, such as the Hundred Islands National Park in Alaminos City.

> 'I consider the capitol as the heart, the soul and the brains of the province'

STAIRCASE inside the capitol building

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INQUIRER JOB

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE
Quezon City
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

October 14, 2008

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
PROCUREMENT OF PROMOTION SUPPORT SPECIALIST, SECURITY AND JANITORIAL SERVICES
Public Bidding No. 08-10-001

Pursuant to RA 9184 ...

Lot	Description	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)
1	Promotion Support Specialist for Revenue Data Center – Mandaluyong	P 1,200,000.00
2	Promotion Support Specialist for Revenue Data Center – Mandaluyong	P 1,200,000.00
3	Janitorial Services for BIR Regional Office, RDC – Mandaluyong & Manila	P 1,200,000.00

1. The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), Revenue Disaster Inc. (1), invites [illegible] to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following lots:

Lot	Description	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)
1	Promotion Support Specialist for Revenue Data Center – Mandaluyong	P 1,200,000.00
2	Promotion Support Specialist for Revenue Data Center – Mandaluyong	P 1,200,000.00
3	Janitorial Services for BIR Regional Office, RDC – Mandaluyong and Manila	P 1,200,000.00

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening.

2. The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) [illegible] invites bids from eligible bidders for one of the following lots:

a. Lot No. 1 – Promotion Support Specialist for Revenue Data Center – Mandaluyong – The delivery shall not be later than [illegible] from the receipt of the Notice to Proceed. The duration of the contract shall be for one (1) year, commencing [illegible] (subject to the availability of funds).

b. Lot No. 2 – Security Services – The Bureau shall acquire the services of Bureau of Internal Revenue [illegible] and shall be effective for the duration and the assigned area.

c. Lot No. 3 – Janitorial Services – The Bureau shall acquire the services of eight (8) janitors to maintain cleanliness, hygiene and sanitation in all offices and in the environment.

The duration of the contract shall commence on January 1 to December 31, 2009. The [illegible] shall be available at the Bureau of Internal Revenue, Collection Service, Quezon City.

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183.

Prospective bidders should have completed, within [illegible] years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an activity is considered similar if it is [illegible] and complexity to the activity being bidded.

4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from BAC Secretariat, and review the Bid Documents at the address given below during 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be acquired by interested bidders on the date and at the address given below upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bid Documents in the amount of:

Lot No.	Amount of Bidding Documents
Lot No. 1	P 1,000.00
Lot No. 2	P 1,000.00
Lot No. 3	P 1,000.00

6. The Bureau of Internal Revenue will hold a Pre-bid Conference open to all interested parties on the following date and venue:

Lot	Description	Date & Time	Venue
Lot No. 1	Promotion Support Specialist for Revenue Data Center – Mandaluyong	10:00 a.m. October 28, 2008	BIR Regional Office Conference Room, 5th Floor, BIR Bldg., San Fabian St., Manila
Lot No. 2	Promotion Support Specialist for Revenue Data Center – Mandaluyong	10:00 a.m. October 28, 2008	BIR Regional Office Conference Room, 5th Floor, BIR Bldg., San Fabian St., Manila
Lot No. 3	Janitorial Services for BIR Regional Office, RDC – Mandaluyong and Manila	10:00 a.m. October 28, 2008	BIR Regional Office Conference Room, 5th Floor, BIR Bldg., San Fabian St., Manila

7. Bids must be duly received by the BAC Secretariat through manual submission at the office address and/or website indicated below on or before:

Lot No.	Date and Time
Lot No. 1	November 4, 2008
Lot No. 2	November 4, 2008
Lot No. 3	November 4, 2008

All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the following forms:

Lot	Description	Date & Time	Venue
Lot No. 1	Promotion Support Specialist for Revenue Data Center – Mandaluyong	10:00 a.m. November 4, 2008	BIR Regional Office Conference Room, 5th Floor, BIR Bldg., San Fabian St., Manila
Lot No. 2	Promotion Support Specialist for Revenue Data Center – Mandaluyong	10:00 a.m. November 4, 2008	BIR Regional Office Conference Room, 5th Floor, BIR Bldg., San Fabian St., Manila
Lot No. 3	Janitorial Services for BIR Regional Office, RDC – Mandaluyong and Manila	10:00 a.m. November 4, 2008	BIR Regional Office Conference Room, 5th Floor, BIR Bldg., San Fabian St., Manila

8. Bid opening shall be conducted by the BAC at the address and on the date and time given below:

Lot	Date and Time	Venue
Lot No. 1	November 4, 2008	10:00 a.m.
Lot No. 2	November 4, 2008	10:00 a.m.
Lot No. 3	November 4, 2008	10:00 a.m.

All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the following forms: [illegible]

9. The applicable rates are as follows:

Lot	Description	Date & Time	Venue
Lot No. 1	[illegible]	November 4, 2008	10:00 a.m.
Lot No. 2	[illegible]	November 4, 2008	10:00 a.m.
Lot No. 3	[illegible]	November 4, 2008	10:00 a.m.

All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the following forms: [illegible]

10. The Bureau of Internal Revenue reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award in accordance with Section 41 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of RA 9184, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder(s).

11. The Bureau of Internal Revenue may exercise its option to reject any bid, waive any formality therein, or accept any bid which, in its judgment, will be most advantageous to the government.

12. For further information, please refer to the BAC Secretariat at the address given below during 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE
Bids and Awards Committee
BIR National Office
Quezon City
Telephone No. 925-1000 / 981-7100
Telefax No. 925-1001 / 981-7101
Website: www.bir.gov.ph
E-mail: bir.gov.ph@yahoo.com

ATTY. NILO A. DE LEON
Asst. Regional Director
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Provincial Government of Lanao del Norte through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites prospective contractors with experience as specified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and to submit sealed bids for the following contract:

Name of Contract	Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Solar-Powered and 100% Lens Street Lights & Other Road Safety Devices
Location	Various National Highways in Iligan – Tubod – Tagoloan – Oroquieta – Ozamiz Corridor
Brief Description	Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Solar-Powered Decorative Lamps
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Phase I P 5,000,000.00 Phase II P 5,000,000.00
Contract Duration	45 Calendar Days

Prospective bidders should have completed a similar PCAB License applicable to the contract. Joint ventures should comply with a notice of at least 60% joint venture participation of the contractor. The BAC will use the non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria as specified in the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Pre-Bid/Bidders' and Award of Contract Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The schedule of BAC Activities is as follows:

BAC Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Invitation to Apply for Eligibility & Bid	October 30, 2008
2. Deadline for Submission of Requests for Eligibility	November 5, 2008
3. Pre-Bid Conference	November 7, 2008
4. Deadline of Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	November 12, 2008
5. Deadline of Evaluation of Eligibility Requirements	November 13, 2008
6. Issuance of Bid Documents	November 14, 2008
7. Pre-Bid Conference	November 21, 2008
8. Deadline of Receipt of Bids	December 1, 2008
9. Opening of Bids	December 1, 2008

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Bid Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Five Thousand Pesos (Php5,000.00) to the Provincial Government of Lanao del Norte-Bids & Awards.

The Provincial Government of Lanao del Norte reserves the right to reject any or all bids, and waive any informality or technicality, and to award to any bidder whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to the Provincial Government of Lanao del Norte. The Provincial Government of Lanao del Norte also reserves the right to waive any obligation for any and all bidders therefore by rejecting the bidder on the grounds of their non-compliance with any of the Philippine laws and rules and regulations that an award within made.

APPROVED:

(Sgd.) MILDRED L. HINGES
BAC Chairman

(PN-Nov. 22, 2008)

Ex-cop in Russia fiasco fails to explain cash

From page A1

here 195,000 euros as the result by revolving fund for was official travel," the retired police director said, reading from a prepared statement.

He added: "I know that I have neither done anything illegal nor abused any of my positions throughout my career, let alone during these last few days in office."

Prudence

De la Paz said the money was spent judiciously. "I assure you that while our monthly food may seem large by the average standards, prudence had governed our expenditures, and the liquidation report that I will be submitting soon for scrutiny and approval by official auditors will bear that out."

In an interview with the television channel ABC, Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno said De la Paz had the authority to make a cash advance of P15 million for the purpose of the trip, but he is still subject to the usual liquidation requirements.

De la Paz said he took P6.91 million out of the cash advance "as standby fund for any contingency that will arise during the conduct of the meeting," such as a health emergency. The Napocor-approved P2.1 million was for the organized expenses such as tarpaulins, accommodations, food and incidentals.

Asked whether he had ever turned in big standby fund for any other official PHP trip, De la Paz said: "We will look into our records."

'Expensive country'

In all, the lobo carried with him P9.2 million in cash to fund the expected and emergency expenses of the eight-member delegation sent by the PHP to the Interpol assembly in St. Petersburg.

"Russia is an expensive country ... It is a shock for tourists to find out rates in Moscow and St. Petersburg are just as expensive or even earlier than those in first-class cities," he said, adding:

"It is not easy being an officer in a country with residents to get immediate financial assistance from, where an official delegation is established by ... medical emergencies or ... inappropriate networking and meetings with fellow delegates."

As to how much was left and whether the delegation had to spend for any contingency, reporters had no chance to ask.

He is the second to refuse to reply to any more questions and an one point told reporters that their questions might have been answered in earlier interviews with the PNP.

No other PNP official was beside De la Paz as the table where seven seats had been prepared for the press conference. But a police escort and two plainclothesmen were seen guiding him to and out of the venue.

Wired from Moscow

De la Paz was said to have wired from Moscow the balance of the fund to a special PNP account to spare himself the trouble of flying to Manila with the questioned cash.

"I have with me all the supporting documents to prove my innocence and clear my fellow delegates who had been unwittingly dragged into this controversy. These documents are the same papers that had been submitted to the Russian authorities to prove that the money was a legal fund for a legal purpose," he said.

De la Paz arrived at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport at around 1:05 p.m. and was met by top officers of the PNP Intelligence Group.

He told airport reporters he would answer questions at the press conference later in the day. "I hope you understand. I thank you for being here but I want to see my family first to tell them I'm okay," he said.

De la Paz was stopped at the Moscow airport on Oct. 13. He stayed an extra week in Moscow because Russian customs officers required documents to prove he was legally carrying the cash in excess of the $3,000 limit.

He was cleared to fly home after presenting a PNP travel authority and a certification of legal foreign currency exchange.

At the press conference, the first order of business for De la Paz was to apologize.

"I apologize deeply to our people and to our government for the embarrassment that the Moscow International Airport that last week touched off as international embarrassment for our country. I apologize too to my fellow delegates to the Interpol conference for having put them to an awkward position as a result of my misstep."

He admitted to a "lapse" and expressed regret for failing to declare the cash as he was leaving Moscow.

"Being accused as a foreign airport for that reduction was doubly disconcerting and upsetting for me, given that as a person devoted to law enforcement for almost 37 years, I should have been the one setting an example in abiding by official rules and regulations, whether here or abroad," he said.

De la Paz also apologized to the media for entertaining only a few questions, and asked that he be excused to join his family.

2-person quorum

But he is not exactly home free because the Senate foreign relations committee chaired by Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago is poised to open an inquiry into the controversy tomorrow.

According to Santiago, she will proceed with the inquiry even if only she and Sen. Mar Roxas are in town because under the Senate Rules of Procedure, only two members are required to form a quorum for a committee hearing.

"Apparently, no other senator will attend the hearing because they are either abroad, out of town or have prior engagements," she told reporters.

Congress is on a monthlong recess that began on Sept. 8.

Santiago said the issues subpoenas on Monday to De la Paz and 3-9 ranking police and executive officials for that the Senate officer in charge, Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, had refused to sign the papers.

She quoted Enrile as saying that he was only authorized to sign "administrative matters." She also said Enrile would "expectorally" be elected by Thursday.

She added that Sen. Pia Cayetano, who arrived yesterday from Geneva where she attended the Inter-Parliamentary Union-related assembly, will approve the subpoenas "as authorized" of Senate President Manuel Villar, who is still in Europe.

Apart from the police officials who traveled to Russia with De la Paz, the others in the summoned include PNP Director General Jesus Versoza, Interior Secretary Puno, Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo, Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya and Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, as well as the wives of Versoza, De la Paz, Deputy Director General Emmanuel Cacta and Director Jaime Caringal, who were part of the PNP delegation.

Santiago has issued subpoenas as well to officials of the Commission on Audit, Civil Service Commission, Manila International Airport Authority, Anti-Money Laundering Council, Securities and Exchange Commission and Insurance Commission.

'PNP affair'

Press Secretary Jesus Dureza said the Palace would not step. Puno or any other official from testifying at the inquiry.

"Of course, Malacañang will not do anything to prevent [the] forming [sic] of the truth in any incidence of the PNP," he said.

According to Dureza, Puno and the police officials involved would submit themselves to the inquiry.

"The letter that went to the [committee] appears," he said. "This is a PNP affair, and they should take care of themselves."

Iloilo Surigao Rep. Jose G. Solis, a member the administration party Kampi and a retired Army colonel, said Congress should look into the money issue during its break. With reports from TJ Burgonio, Michael Lim Ubac, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Jerome Aning

SC upholds Neri's right to silence on ZTE deal

From page A1

action" the Senate's second motion for reconsideration of the decision upholding the former socioeconomic planning secretary's invocation of executive privilege to evade answering questions related to President Macapagal-Arroyo's involvement in the aborted deal.

The tribunal actually denied the admission of the second motion for consideration in an en banc resolution dated Sept. 23 and received by its public information office at Oct. 17.

It denied the resolution only a day after the second motion for reconsideration was filed.

The high court also made clear that no more pleading would be entertained in connection with Neri's refusal to answer senators' questions after he claimed that then Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos had offered him P200 million to approve the NBN-ZTE contract.

The tribunal said it had "resolved to deny the bulk of Neri's the motion ... filed by the counsel for respondent Senate committees considering that a second motion for reconsideration is a prohibited pleading" under Rule 52, Section 2 in relation to Rule 56, section 2(a) of the 1997 Rules of Civil Procedure.

"The aforesaid second motion is noted without action in view of the above action. No further pleading will be entertained," it said.

Chief Justice Reynato Puno and Justices Consuelo Ynares-Santiago, Antonio Carpio, Ma. Alicia Austria-Martinez, Conchita Carpio-Morales and Adolfo Azcuna maintained their dissent to the majority decision resolving the case in Neri's favor in March.

Justice Renato Corona was on leave when the en banc ruled on the issue of the admission of the second motion for reconsideration.

The tribunal denied the first motion for reconsideration lodged by the Senate on Sept. 4 it noted Oct. 7 on as it did unless it first ruled on the matter in March.

In denying the first motion for reconsideration, the high court upheld its decision that the Senate could not force Neri to answer those questions concerning the Abalos' bribery attempt on him in connection with the NBN-ZTE deal.

The questions that the Senate had asked Neri were whether the President had followed up on the NBN project, whether he was told to prioritize it, and whether she told him to approve the deal after being informed of Abalos' purported bribe offer.

The high court maintained that presidential communications were presumptively privileged, and that the Senate committees looking into the deal had failed to present sufficient proof to defeat this presumption.

It even also announced that the decision could render executive privilege a "refuge for scoundrels."

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GMA backs ₱1-M insurance for deposits

Front page 1

"The President stressed that it was better to have this increase now while we still don't need it than to need it later while we can't have it," Tesoro said at a press briefing.

Mr Arroyo made the decision during a Cabinet meeting with the National Economic and Development Authority, National Food and Energy Council and Peter Cosalan-Ong Council on Manufacturing on Tuesday.

She agreed to the Cabinet proposal to raise the deposit insurance coverage extended by state-owned Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. (PDIC) to ₱1 million, much higher than the proposed increase of ₱500,000.

In the House of Representatives, there are bills proposing increases in deposit insurance of up to ₱500,000 from the current ₱250,000.

Sense of security

"The President decided to go for the full [increase] so that the people will get some feeling of security, and will deposit more without worrying that their hard-earned deposit will disappear," Press Secretary Jesus Dureza said at the briefing.

This, however, will have to be approved by both chambers of Congress. "This will be a priority measure," Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya said in a phone interview.

The President's economic adviser, Albay Gov. Joey Salceda, earlier proposed an increase to the maximum deposit insurance to ₱500,000 as part of a package to shield the country from the financial meltdown.

In the Senate, Sen Bong and Sen. Francis Escudero have also proposed a ₱500,000 insurance for deposits.

Around PDIC charter

At present, PDIC is seeking amendments to its charter that would increase the deposit insurance coverage to ₱500,000 for a period of three years as local confidence in the country's financial system.

PDIC is a government corporation established in the 1960s to encourage savings in banks, protect insured deposits and draw idle funds into the banking system.

PDIC president Jose Negrales earlier expressed confidence that amendments to the PDIC charter would be passed within the year.

At the ₱500,000 level, 97.2 percent of all deposit accounts will be fully covered by insurance. There's no available figure yet for the ₱1-million level.

"Be assured that this is not in response to what's happening in our banks," Dureza said when asked if the President's move had been prompted by heavy withdrawals in banks.

"Our banking system had gone through a cathartic in the 1997 Asian crisis. Fundamentals have been set in place. We don't see any bank runs," he added.

Any increase in insurance coverage in the country will have to be matched by an increase in the authorized capital stock of PDIC. At the end of 2006, PDIC had total assets of P137.9 billion and a deposit insurance fund of P49.2 billion, according to its website.

Tax refund

Besides a higher deposit coverage, Senator Roxas seeks a package of incentives that would provide a tax refund for minimum wage workers, stop home foreclosures and encourage businesses to give permanent employment to more workers.

"Times are hard, and they are bound to get worse. We need to empower our citizens so they themselves can stimulate demand within the economy. At the same time, we encourage employment stability," said Roxas, chair of the Senate committee on trade and commerce.

Think tank not optimistic

Few are optimistic about the economy in 2009, and the House of Representatives' think tank is no exception. It expects government not to meet its revenue collection target and the deficit to balloon to P93 billion. *With reports from Michael Lim Ubac, Leila B. Salaverria and Reuters*

Countries that guaranteed deposits

TO BOOST CONFIDENCE IN TERSE banking system and limit the fallout of the financial crisis, several European and Asian countries have increased their guaranteed deposits.

Among these countries are:

- Australia—On Oct. 12, the government guaranteed deposits in local banks, credit unions and its subsidiaries of foreign banks for a period of three years. But it drew a line on banking branches of foreign banks, which are not allowed to take money from retail savers but can accept wholesale deposits.
- Ireland—The parliament on Oct. 2 passed legislation guaranteeing 100 percent of the deposits and debts of six banks.
- Greece—It has moved to guarantee all bank deposits.
- Germany—It has announced it will guarantee bank deposits held by private savers.
- Great Britain—On Oct. 3, Prime Minister Gordon Brown's government raised the value of deposits it insures to 50,000 pounds ($85,500).
- Denmark—It, more like the rest of the country guaranteed all bank deposits.
- Singapore—The government announced on Oct. 15 that it was guaranteeing all bank deposits until the end of 2010. The move protects the full amount of savers' deposits. *Inquirer Research*

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Kin of prominent docs dies in car mishap

Rescuers fail to retrieve victim from burning Benz hit by bus

By Nancy C. Carvajal

A MEMBER OF A PROMINENT FAMILY OF OPTOmetrists and ophthalmologists died in a vehicular accident on Santolan along Edsa before dawn yesterday.

Dr. Francisco Surabia, 52, a resident of Bluebiona City, was killed when the Mercedes Benz (plate number NFH 602) he was driving burst into flames after it was hit by a speeding passenger bus at 2:50 a.m.

A group of men tried to get him out of the burning vehicle but failed. His body was burned beyond recognition.

Surabia was the grandson of Dr. Federico Surabia, the country's first optometrist.

Quezon City Traffic head Senior Supt. Norberto Bahagan said four other people were hurt in the accident that involved the victim's vehicle and two passenger buses.

One of them was Sandrino Sampadano, Hervey Garcia, 32, of Iloilo City. The others were Salvador and Lippo de Guzman, 38, both of Pasig City, and Lauro Bolito, a bus conductor.

They were brought to the East Avenue Medical Center for treatment by paramedic Garcia, the police chief official, was later transferred to St. Luke's Medical Center.

Bahagan said an initial investigation showed that Surabia and Garcia were travelling on the northbound lane of Edsa. Sandrino reliefs drove car was his boss behind by a Jimmy Jeek Transport bus (plate number TPG 660) with Marlinos Madrid behind the wheel.

"The bus must have been moving at high speed because the impact made the victim's car (as) moved three and it ended up facing opposite direction," he added.

"Apart from the fact that the bus was speeding, the road is due area slopes downward and vehicles momentarily pick up speed," Bahagan said.

According to him, Madrid escaped after the accident but surrendered at his office several hours later in care himself in. He was accompanied by a staffer of the bus company.

Madrid said he only left the scene because he was afraid of being mauled by bystanders. He also denied that he was racing with another Jimmy Jeek bus before the accident. The driver told investigators that he was following the bus when it suddenly stopped, forcing him to swerve to the right.

He was, however, hit the back of a Concessioner that that had stopped to pick up passengers.

Madrid said he swerved to the left, but this time, he hit the Benz which spun around several times.

Bahagan said that after the accident, bystanders car burst into flames. Bystanders managed to get Garcia out of the car. When they came back for Surabia, the heat of the vehicle blew up, forcing them to run for cover.

Rescuers managed to put out the fire but found only the victim's charred body in the driver's seat.

THE MERCEDES: Boss of Dr. Francisco Surabia, co-member of the Surabia family, which runs a chain of optical shops, is a total wreck after it burst into flames when it was hit by a bus. Surabia was killed in the accident. NANCY C. CARVAJAL

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NBI looking for 3 suspected members of int'l drug gang

By Jeannette I. Andrade

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF Investigation is looking for three suspected members of an international drug syndicate following the arrest of two other members who allegedly recruited a teacher for a job overseas.

The brothers, however, claimed that the two men tried to make him a drug courier.

Agents of the NBI Reaction, Arrest and Interdiction Division operatives are now looking for Denison Quinto—said to be the head of the West Africans drug syndicate that has several Nigerians from Vietnam to Malaysia—and her suspected cohorts identified as Grace Calimo and Marlon Cedeño.

On Oct. 19, the NBI arrested two suspected members of the gang—Ben Cabal and John Labayen—at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 1 where they were supposed to board a plane bound for China.

Cabal was reportedly responsible for processing fake documents for the syndicate's "mules" or couriers.

The enrollment's drug scouters, it was learned, transport drugs either by swallowing capsules containing the illegal substances or by transferring the capsules to different orifices of the body.

Earlier, Paul John Villavicencio, the suspects' victim, went to the Department of Foreign Affairs to ask for help.

He said he was recruited by the suspects to work as a teacher in China but was taken instead to Thailand.

In Bangkok, Quinto asked him to be one of the group's "mules" or drug runners.

He said he turned down the offer.

Villavicencio said he later managed to escape from the suspects.

He went to the Philippine Embassy in Thailand which sent him back to the country on Oct. 2.

After he went to the NBI, agents conducted an entrapment operation, resulting in the suspects' arrest.

Cabal and Labayen have been charged with violation of provisions of Republic Act 9165 or the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995.

Pasig City supermart destroyed in 5-hour fire

By DJ Yap

AROUND P150 MILLION WORTH of store merchandise and other properties went up in smoke yesterday after a fire hit a supermarket in Pasig City at past midnight, raging well until dawn.

The five-hour blaze started on the ground floor of the S. Alfonso Supermarket at the corner of Dorigon and Dr. Sixto Antonio avenues in Barangay Bonanza, and spread to the second floor, arson investigators said.

Firefighters had a hard time entering the two-story structure and could not immediately put it out because of the thick smoke, investigators said.

FO1 Salvador Nicdao Jr. said the fire, which started at 12:38 a.m., originated from an area near the middle section of the supermarket.

Although the cause of the fire is still under investigation, security guards posted at the establishment said faulty electrical wiring in the store freezers or refrigerators could have set off the blaze.

The fire was put out at 5:37 a.m.

DID YOU KNOW

THE PHILIPPINE Orthopedic Center in Quezon City, which serves accident victims and those in need of orthopedic rehabilitation, started out as the Kamuning Emergency Hospital (Civil Affairs Unit No. 1 Kilusang Bayan), taking care of civilian casualties during the fight for Manila's freedom from Japanese occupation. It was turned over to the Philippine government and was later relocated to Quezon City.

Carl C. Ramoneda, Inquirer Research

QC cop gets life term for holding businesswoman

By Julie M. Aurelio

A QUEZON CITY COURT HAS sentenced a policeman to life imprisonment for allegedly detaining a businesswoman encountered-up drug charges in 2004 and demanding a P100,000 ransom in exchange for her freedom.

In his decision, Judge Alexander Bautz of Regional Trial Court Branch 76 found PO3 Jaleen Borja guilty of kidnapping and serious illegal detention with ransom.

At the time of the alleged crime, Borja was assigned to the Quezon City Police District's Station 10 in Kamuning along Edsa.

Bautz pointed out that although the accused is a police officer, this does not mean that he cannot be tried under the law for the alleged offense.

"Where the circumstances show that the police officer, acting not in the line of duty, detains a person for ransom or personal reason, he can be held liable for the crime," part of the decision read, a copy of which was shown to reporters.

Bautz also dismissed Borja's alibi that he was somewhere else on May 26, 2004 when Ronaly Mamaril, a wholesaler of pop drinks and tea, was abducted, pointing out that the accused was positively identified by the victim and other witnesses.

Court records showed that Mamaril, along with her neighbor Vicky Lumicao, was walking along Aghum Road in Barangay Central to enroll Mamaril's son at the Philippine Children's Medical Center.

At around 10:10 a.m., a man joined Mamaril by the right harassed and forced him a waiting gray van despite the victim's cries for help.

Both she and Lumicao later identified Borja in court as the man who pushed Mamaril.

The victim told the court that apart from Borja, there were three other men in the van who brought her to Quezon Memorial Circle where the men allegedly asked her for a relative's contact number.

A certain "Major Charlie" then called up her home and told Mamaril's mother Adelina to pay them P100,000 in exchange for the victim's freedom. Mamaril's brother Edwin Silvio was later able to persuade the abductors to reduce the amount to P100,000.

The suspects allegedly told Silvio to bring the money to the Pobo and Wildlife grounds along Quezon Avenue at 3 p.m. that day. The suspects allegedly transferred the victim to a gray car and drove her to Iloilo Hotel, a McDonald's branch along Quezon Ave., the Social Security System office and the four Avenue Medical Center.

Court records showed that Silvio brought the money, accompanied by Sher Cordova, an agent of the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force, and policemen from the Batasang police station.

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MetroBriefs

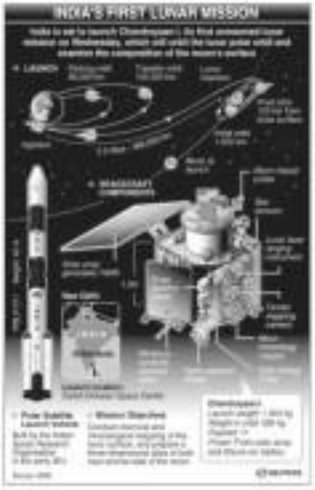
Robbers raid LRTA office

A GROUP of heavily armed robbers disguised as policemen swiftly raided the office of the Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA) in Pasay City Monday night and fled without a hitch. But instead of cash, they took confiscated piles of daily documents in the steel cabinets. Senior Supt. Marietto Valeros, Pasay police chief, said the robbers could be the same group of armed men who barged into a mobile phone shop in Makati City and stole money, phones and digital cameras which they overlook for the loot items. He said the robbers arrived at the LRTA office on Epifanio Delos Santos Avenue (Edsa) at around 6:30 p.m. in two vehicles with government plates—a silver Toyota Revo (SFV 102) and a green Mitsubishi Adventure (SFV 604). They identified themselves as police officers who were called to respond to a supposed bomb threat at the LRTA office. Once inside, they tied up the employees and relocated to the office but found no money. Frustrated, the robbers took away the mobile phones and money of the employees' worth around P50,000.

—Marlon Ramos

The WORLD

Lilia Lorente B. Duano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Mission life: 2 years
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SPORTS

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US OPEN 9-BALL

Alcano, Django lead Pinoy surge

FORMER DOUBLE WORLD CHAMPION BONNIE ALCANO AND FORMER world No. 1 Francisco "Django" Bustamante handled separate rivals Monday and toward five other Filipinos into the third round of the 23rd US Open 9-Ball Championship at the Chesapeake Convention Center in Chesapeake, Virginia.

Alex Arroyo, the Philippine bad rolling in the prestigious $250,000 event are veteran internationalist Rodolfo Luat, four-time Southeast Asian Games gold medalist Warren Kiamco, Lee Vann Corteza, Raoul Gallego and United States-based Jose "Jeremy" Parica.

Determined to better his runner-up finish in last year's edition, Alcano, stalwart of Bogey Promotions, ousted American Mike Dechenbeck, 11-4, while Bustamante of Pepsi Sports subdued Keith Shreve, 11-8.

Kiamco removed Jason Klass, 11-3, while Luat dumped Don Polo, 11-2, for their second straight victories in the tournament that attracted 168 players from around the world.

Corteza, who drew a first-round bye, opened his campaign with an 11-3 blasting of Abdullah El-Fouad, while fellow Negros Billiards Association member Gallego followed up his 11-3 conquest of Sam Shreiky in the opening round by sipping hot-

BUSTAMANTE: Back-to-back win

shot champion Gabe Owens, 11-9.

Save for Parica, who also drew a bye around but before thwarting Md Heidaruzi, 11-9, all Filipino

aspirers are members of the Billiards Managers and Players Association of the Philippines.

The tournament, which dangles $40,000 for the champion, was won in 1999 by Efren "Bata" Reyes and in 2000 by Alex Pagulayan.

Hot on Fortunato were Leonardo Andam and Joven Alba. Andam bowed to First Markus Aura, 11-6, while Alba shelled to Englishmen Chris Melling, to the first-round.

Andam and Alba dropped to the losers' bracket, where they need to sweep their remaining games to stay in contention.

Others big guns who barged into the third stage of the winners' side are reigning world 9-ball titlist Darryl Peach of England, former world champion Alka Imrsiree of Finland, four-time US Open champion Earl Strickland, world No. 2 Niels Feijen of the Netherlands and Charlie Williams of the United States.

Peach downed Nasser Al-Mesalmi, 11-7; Imrsiree blasted Greg Hotschow 11-4; Strickland, beat Tariq Al-mulla, 11-3; Feijen drubbed Josh Ulrich, 11-4; and Williams stomped Elias Herthies of Greece, 11-5.

ALL TOGETHER NOW National team head coach Yeng Guiao (second from left, make-photo) with (jong Ulanza, PBA commissioner Sonny Barrios, Norman Black and Chot Reyes. Robert Jaworski (left photo) also shared his thoughts

Yeng plots RP five campaign with Jawo, ex-nat'l coaches

By Francis T.J. Ochoa

HE HAD BEATEN THEM BEFORE —some of them in the biggest games—and left them in awe with his ability to turn an underdog squad into a title contender.

But in what he described as a "once-in-a-lifetime job" as head coach of the ultimate underdog squad, Yeng Guiao found the humility to call on some of his biggest nemeses—and seek their help.

"I know my limitations," Guiao said Tuesday evening during a PBA-sponsored gathering of national coaches at a cozy Japanese restaurant inside a Mandaluyong hotel. "That's why I thought of putting together basketball's brightest minds."

Guiao was appointed coach of the RP team that will be sent to the 2009 World Championship team qualifying tournament next year.

Present during the unofficial brainstorming session were former senator and Guiao playing coach Robert Jaworski (1998 Asian Games, Beijing), Alaska coach Norman Black (1996 Asian), Hirohitosu), Barangay Ginebra mentor Jong Uichara (2002 Asian), Asaaro) and Talk 'N Text assistant Chot Reyes (2002 Pilo-Asia championship, Shahrukhan).

The only absentee among the roster of national head coaches of a PBA-backed squad was Alaska's Tim Cone (1998 Asian), Bangkok), who-

/ A28

Jaworski packs old wit, gives side on hoop talk

FORMER ROOKIE AND BASketball icon Robert Jaworski stood in the middle of a semicircle of media people ready to be peppered by a barrage of questions that needed answers from someone of his stature.

First off, what exactly was he doing with national coach Yeng Guiao and a bunch of PBA and ex-national mentors at a posh hotel restaurant on this particular Monday night?

"Binatasang lang si Yeng Guiao pawede pa ako magbare at national

/ A28

Such a prior engagement.

"The meeting was very fruitful and enlightening," said Guiao, the 49-year-old Hall Ball mentor, after the session. "There guys have the best international knowledge and that's something I don't have."

Already, the coaches have agreed on one crucial component: The team. Although it still takes two weeks

Coke Tigers fire coach Favis / A28

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Tigers fire Favis; Duremdes stands in as coach

By Marc Anthony R. Castillo

THE COCA-COLA TIGERS MANAGEMENT fired coach Binky Favis Monday night after failing to steer his expensive and formidable crew past the quarterfinals of last Season's Fiesta Cup and after a 1-3 start in the ongoing BPC-PBA Philippine Cup.

A source privy to the goings on at the Tigers camp confirmed Favis' sacking to the hotjocks yesterday even as Coca-Cola board representative Jil Bayton looked for a replacement.

Former MVP Kenneth Duremdes, who has guided on the bench during Favis' tenure, and Lerand Francisco, who became a Tiger at the top of his game but never got off the injured list, will temporarily call the shots for the injured hotjocks while it clashes with defending champion Sta. Lucia.

Game time at the Araneta Coliseum is 5 p.m.

San Miguel Beer, the hottest team in the field after Ginebra, clashes with sister team Barangay Ginebra in the second game at 7:30 p.m. with the Brewmen seeking to extend a three-game winning streak and deal the Gin Kings a second straight loss.

Favis retained rookie duo brought in Art Dumlao from Talk 'N Text and Alex Cabagnot and Duremdes from Sta. Lucia.

And while he got the axe, Favis, who wanted, Coca-Cola also had to fork out a princely sum to salaries for the three, with Duremdes one of the last beneficiaries of the P500,000-a-month scheme previously allowed by the league.

With the high payroll, no less than a championship was expected from them.

Management was expected to make the announcement and to inform the Commissioners Office of the coaching change yesterday.

Duremdes came to the Tigers as part of the Cabagnot trade but never saw the minutes many felt he still deserved.

Francisco was also acquired via free agency coming off a title-winning performance for Sta. Lucia while taking Finals MVP honors.

Meanwhile, Barangay Ginebra's Mowell Tabal was fined P20,000 and suspended one game for a pair of flagrant fouls committed against Red Bull's Rich Alvarez and Jojo Duncil during the Kings' 100-94 defeat in the Sunday last Saturday.

Odds say it's not really a mismatch

'Mexicutioner' Manny a hit in Mexico

2003's show that Manny Pacquiao was an even bigger favorite against Daorobba. (AFP/FILE)

WHAT STARTED OUT AS A CELEBRATED MISmatch is starting to get pretty even—at least according to the odds. And the overwhelming support from the most unlikely place—Mexico—may have something to do with that.

Betting lines have started showing Manny Pacquiao's improving chances against Oscar De La Hoya in their Dec. 6 Ultimo Match at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, with the odds between the two fighters slowly narrowing.

In betting terms, Pacquiao is hovering between the plus 310 and plus 320 underdog level based on popular Vegas sites sportbet.com, betus.com and sportsbetting.com as more and more people are putting their money on the Filipino dog's situation.

A lot of those willing to wager on Pacquiao could be Mexicans, who, according to a boxing writer for Wallstreet.com, are warming up to the Filipino more than they are to De La Hoya, who is of Latino descent.

"One would think that De La Hoya would be the overwhelming favorite as he is [of] Mexican-American (descent)," wrote Benjamin Alejandro Baldovino Olivio. "But the fact is Pacquiao is their choice because he is the underdog. And he has a pleasant Mexican style and the bravado of Mexican fighters."

Pacquiao's unofficial sing as the "Mexican Assassin" apparently did not hurt his popularity as Olivio considered a poll and was "was amazed to see that those from my area favor Pacquiao by 72 percent."

De La Hoya, who opened up as an overwhelming favorite, currently has betting lines teetering between the minus 265 to minus 298 mark.

In layman's terms, to get a $100 profit on the bookies' buy, one has to wager anywhere between $265 and $298. On the other hand a $100 bet on the Pacman will win anywhere between $310 and $320.

To put things in perspective, when Pacquiao first went up in weight to fight then WBC lightwelterweight champion David Diaz, who—he knocked out in the ninth round, he went in a minus 900 favorite and De La a plus 625 underdog.

Sportsmemorabilia.com translated the betting lines as De La Hoya currently is a 2-1 favorite to win with still two months to go before the fight. Some Vegas hotels have had bigger odds tilted to the favorite on fight night.

When Juan Manuel Marquez stepped into the ring to eventually defeat Joel Casamayor, he was a 6-1 favorite.

Jaworski...

Front page A21

team (Bring just wanted to know if I could still play for the national team)," said Jaworski, donning laughter from the press.

Sharp, old witty and deeply profound about basketball, Jaworski shared his thoughts on several issues, ranging from the formation of the national team—he is part of an unofficial advisory council Ildefonso hopes to draw valuable information from—to the possibility of coaching the U.

As a member of the council, Jaworski will get a sneak preview of the national roster that will be released in two weeks. He said he hopes the list will include players "who have the heart to give everything they got because that would make a big difference."

On plans to naturalize a seven-footer to offset a Filipino genetic problem regarding height, the architect of the 1990C "beer-ngin" Gilas spirit said there should be a program first that will explore the possibility of finding a homegrown with Filipino roots.

"There are notable legal issues for help (other than naturalization)," Jaworski said, referring to the dual citizenship law.

Jaworski also expressed reservations on the hiring of a foreign coach, although his objection was more on the actual handling of the national squad.

"I don't have any degree of pride," he said. "Get that (foreign) coach to hold a seminar here; pick out the best coverage, the best techniques that the foreign coach can pass on."

There were rumors in the offseason that the all-time great would handle the coaching chores for NLEX, but Jaworski cautioned against expecting him to bank on dates of players not yet signed.

"They're wonderful people and we're talking about something that is closest to my heart, something that has been a big part of my life and continues to be," Jaworski explained. "It's just that at this time of my life, there are small things in life I'm putting together right now."

"But I'm not closing my doors on anything," he added, jesting. (Francis D. Odbon)

Big start for RP chessers in tough World Youth tilt

YUNG DU, VIETNAM—JOHNIE JUNIO Crissy Lenard Bernales and Charlene Christine Cariaedo fueled the Philippines' hot start in the 2008 World Youth Chess Championships last Monday at the Vung Tau Sports Center.

Bernales, bested Marcella Caroline of The Netherlands in the girls' 10-and-under category, while Cariaedo whipped Ludmila Antimovska of Sri Lanka in the girls' 14-and-under class as Filipino bets won 10, drew three and absorbed five losses in the first round.

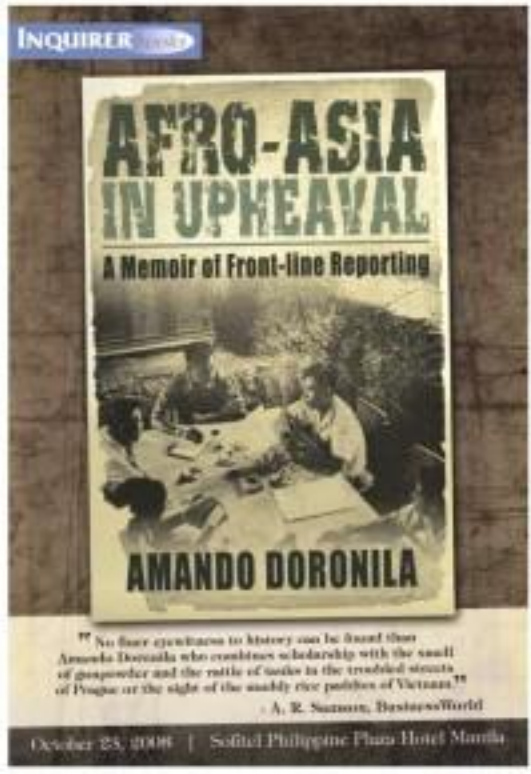
Haridan Pineza and Neon John Dela Isla led the Filipinos' charge in the boys' division of the 11 annual tournament which attracted 665 players from 73 countries.

Pineza trounced Ansch Jute of England while Dela Isla dumped Sisi Li of Macau in the boys' 10-and-under class.

Asian titans led Judoka Dorcas marched Bernales' strong start to the girls' 16-and-under category when she subdued Dalia Rajimovaite of Canada.

Nine players did well considering the presence of world-class players ," said National coach IM Mellbren Dela

Other Filipino winners were Jan Jim-mannuel Gaerlan, who beat Mark Lee of Hong Kong in the boys' 14-and-under, and Bede Bernardino, who downed Fred Hann of England in the boys' 20-and-under, and Hyle Dolloso, who bested Hanan Ayesbayev of Kazakstan, and Hanner Phelan de Leon, who outplayed Miguel Ituarte of Bolivia in the boys' eight-under



A league of their own

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

THE FIRST AND LAST TIME THE PHILIPpine Basketball League (PBL) had a women only division was 10 years ago during the term of Vengz Gozun as commissioner.

If memory serves me right, it was also the only time a commercial league for women's basketball ever existed.

"That was back in 1998, before I was offered to coach the BASL-built team in the NBA. Also part of my expansive plan was the formation of a junior division," said Vengz as he mentioned several players, now in the PBA, who played in that division.

James Yap and Paul Asiedi were among them.

* * *

I had pulled Vengz aside after last meeting with former national coaches Robert Jaworski, Jong Uichico, Norman Black and Chot Reyes at the Japanese restaurant of the Edsa Plaza Hotel in Mandaluyong to ask him about the women's league.

Earlier that Monday, I attended a press conference hosted by PBL chair Mikee Romero to launch the WPBL (Women's PBL), his baby league, according to former NBP executive director Pido Garcia, who has been given the task of developing women's basketball by the the BP board.

Before he quit his NBP post and joined former Commissioners, Pido was trying to put together a women's league under Bobby Gonzalez. But Pido left the NBP even before the league could take shape.

The tough-talk WPBL Prexy's vision was realized, although another event was shoved at the feeble of The league.

* * *

Mikee and PBL commissioner Chino Trinidad said the PBL will only guide the women's league to its infant stages. When it becomes steady and old enough to operate on its own, the WPBL will be severed from the PBL, and become fully independent.

The WPBL will have its own board, separate from that of the PBL, and commissioner, who will be named soon.

"It is going to be a league of their own," said Chino, citing the recent "A League of their Own," starring Oscar winner Geena Davis.

* * *

Vengz wasn't here; noticed our sensitivity has been found to be because he joked about making a fashion statement. He was garbed in white batong tagalog, sleeves folded, missing pants and leather moccasins. He also wore a beautiful cap.

Except for the cap and the shoes, Rio Lucia's Bells Williams also wore the same costume in last season's PBA Awards Night when he was proclaimed MVP.

* * *

Even if they were hopeful, neither Chino Mikee nor who expected such an enthusiastic response from the basketball community over the "rebirth" of the women's league.

Among Lady Eagles were manager Ariel Lopa, who has a daughter playing in the series, is elated that local women's basketball "has finally evolved into a commercial league whose players can go after graduation."

Basketball Coaches Association of the Philippines president Chito Narvasa, whose Mondo Topic product will be turned by the women's franchise, said it is only fair that women to be given the same opportunity in the men in basketball.

The WPBL will be school-based, like most of the teams in the PBL. In addition to Ateneo and Lyceum, also in the league's initial list of teams are University of the Philippines, which is sponsored by Smart, for Eastern University, which is backboned and La Salle (DLSU-Green). Two other squads are still on hold—College of St. Benilde to be sponsored by Phoenix and St. Scholastica's College, to be sponsored by Bayshore.

* * *

The living legend, former senator Sonny Angara, said it was the first time he had been invited to a meeting like the one called by Vengz.

"I thought he was going to ask me if I was still in shape—if I could suit up for the national team he was forming," he said, as he took a deep breath and expanded his chest muscles.

"He was cute, no, I'm still in shape."

The Big L, one of the team's elite enrolled in the 1990 Beijing Asian Games, said he was not against the inclusion of naturalized rogues in the team but warned against legal impediments. He is also not against a foreign coach holding clinics and seminars for local coaches to share his technological know-how.

Tierro bids for PCA net title vs top foreign bets

TIERRO. Tough test

By Cedelf P. Tupas

MANILA (UPDATE) Filipino Jon Tierro headlines the cast of close to 300 players that will see action in the 2008 Philippine Columbian Association Open Tennis Championships next month at the PCA indoor clay courts in Manila.

"I'm prepared for this tournament," the 23-year-old Tierro, a losing finalist to Johnny Arolla last year and in Korea Ulsang Hite early in 2005, said yesterday at the launch of the 27th edition of the event.

But Tierro won't have it easy in his bid for a first-ever PCA crown as organizers have invited a bevy of United States-based Filipinoteens as well as Koreans, Malaysians and Indonesians to compete in the tournament, described by Philippine Tennis Association president Julio Villanueva as the country's version of Wimbledon.

Two-time semifinalist Vincent Ocha is also seen a tough challenge, especially from the junior players like Nilo Adamos.

Presenting the event is Cabuana Distillery, which raised the total purse by P800,000, up by P100,000 from last year. The men's and women's singles winners will get P300,000 and P90,000, respectively.

"Cabuana Distillery is helping grassroots tennis, the ISF scene, and has a streak overall. And by supporting this tournament, I think we have come full circle," Cabuana Distillery CEO Jean Henri Distillery said.

The Open begins Nov. 4 with the aggregate, knockout/crossover rounds. The qualifying for the main draw is on Nov. 17.

PCA Open chair Ronald Arnar said Spain-based Christine and Cherie Fuentevero, daughters of box-rise PBA MVP Abet Fuentevero, may also vie for titles.

Yeng plots RP five . . .

Forecast A27

before the 15-man lineup is released, Quiao said around 60 to 70 percent of Hoyas' national squad will be retained.

"Three-vers names passed around that I agree I cannot do without and there will be just four or five new players added to the list," said Franco, who will have his roster critiqued by the coaches before revealing the names.

"I basically asked about the composition, who we should prepare for, the basic styles of plays and the atmosphere," he added. "I just wanted to soak everything up."

But more than a crash course on international Basketball 101, the meeting was set up more to give him an idea as to what went wrong in the previous national stint.

After all, the best finish among the PBA-backed RP squads was Jawaralet's silver in 1990, one that Gilas's 2002 team came to within a hopes beating Korea's triple of matching.

"That's exactly why I asked this group to be put together... for them to tell me what their mistakes were so I will not repeat them," said Guiao. "Like they say, if you don't learn from the mistakes of history, you're bound to repeat them."

By "stepping into their shoes, getting into their minds and consolidating all their knowledge and experience," Guiao hopes to jump-start a progression that is expected to take a major hit with several Muslim countries expressing that the Pilas move to qualifier earlier.

There is confidence that Guiao can steer the RP team to victory. And he can't get any more underdog than the national squad.

"We've won him living out the best in his players and he just may be the guy we need," said Ochoa.

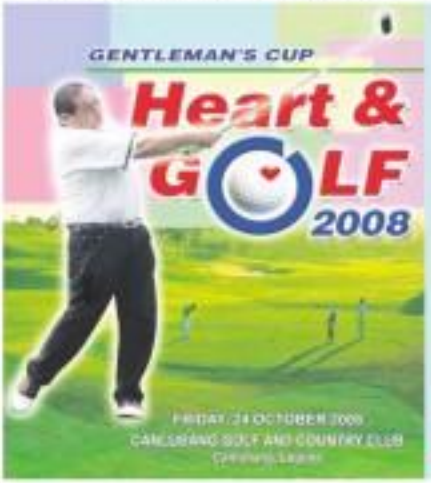
"We've always put so much hype on the fact that we were once dominant in the sport but that's not the reality anymore. Any way you look at it, we're the underdogs in Asia."

Loyola booters upend La Salle

LOYOLA FC PLAYED MOST OF THE SECOND half with 10 men, turned back La Salle, 2-1, to remain in third place in the first division of the 3rd NCRFA Terry Fiances Cups Filipina at the Xavier football field over the weekend.

Midseason striker Rolan Bernaola booted in the marginal goal in the 31st minute after skipping past three defenders as Loyola hung tough despite the dismissal of Cabby Bhandoo, who was slapped with his second yellow card 12 minutes into the final half.

Loyola improved to 15 points, gaining ground on leader Navy (19), while La Salle suffered its fourth loss in eight games.



SPORTS

La Salle makes presence felt

By Cedelff Tejan

RACHEL Anne Daquis of FEU dives to the floor while teammate Shaira Gonzales tries to keep the ball in play during their Shakey's V-League volleyball match against La Salle yesterday —ROGUE TOLA PHOTO

HERE COME THE LADY ARCHERS

Taking its cue from another returning heavyweight, three-time champion La Salle marched its comeback with a lusty 25-15, 18-25, 25-23, 25-19 victory over the Lambda yesterday in the Shakey's V-League second conference at The Arena in San Juan.

Dust player Che Isaac provided the stabilizing act plays that helped the Lady Archers, who took a substantial in the first conference, weather an FEU challenge and snatch their first win.

Jenny Young, another first-time champ that took a leave of absence in the first conference, climaxed with a victory over Ilo Bonifacio on opening day.

Celine Fernandez and long-time standout Matilda Santos provided a bulk of the scoring for the Lady Archers, who got a combined 27 hits from the pair and 18 points each from Jacqueline Alinsa and Stephanie Mercado.

The Lady Archers jumped out of the gates but had speed bumps in the road two sets before finally prevailing in an hour and 52 minutes.

In the second game, Adamson, which made the most out of La Salle's and UST's absences by taking the first conference, bounced back from an opening-day loss to FEU by sweeping its Semble, 25-21, 25-13, 25-22.

Alona Lagrollet' 17 hits, 11 of which were kills, fueled the Lady Falcons, who got 14 points built on 12 attacks from Angela Benting to catch the Tams at 1-1.

The Lady Blazers, who did not field a guest player in this tournament, dropped to 0-2.

The 7th-based Lady Archers were dominant on defense, registering 33 FEU aces.

"Our blocking is OK but we need to improve our set plays," said LaSalle coach Sherol de Asis after the match.

The Lady Archers struggled in the second with Kaye Martinez unable to get anything going with her set plays. Isaac took charge midway in the third set as set the stage for the victory.

The tournament is sponsored by Shakey's Pizza and organized by Sports Vision and backed by Active White skin whitening products, Milkos and Accel.

For updates and results, visit the tournament website at www.v-league.ph.

■ The La Salle-FEU game will be telecast at 8:00 p.m. today with replays to be shown at 1:00 PM Prime Channel on Destiny Cable and Bilibing Channel on Sky Cable.

SPORTSWATCH

Titap 595 golf tees off Friday

THE NORTH GEORGIA TITAP GOLFING GOLF TOURnament will be held this Friday at the Ayala course of Eagle Ridge in Gen. Trias, Cavite.

Championships in several divisions for men and women will be up for grabs in the tournament that will use the System 36 method of scoring.

Tournament fee is P2,000 for nonstick members and P1,000 for members.

For inquiries, call Ann Tanat 891-81-02186.

GCAP Stagfighter known today

MORE THAN 150 GOLFERS ARE SCHEDULED TO tee the Southern Cockers Association of the Philippines (GCAP) Grand Championship 1-Stag Derby today at the San Juan Coliseum.

The winner of the 2008 GCAP Stagfighter of the Year title will be also known today.

The Sportsmen Pitchey entry of the team of Ray Briones, Ronin Pitchay and Rubert Dizon and the LDB Sports Arena of Oscar Binayuga had the race with standout 15.5 points.

Makati 'Big Event 2' slated

THE SHOWDOWN FEATURING THE COUNTRY'S crowdfighting heavyweights returns with the staging of the Makati Big Event Part II in May Derby on Nov. 9 at the Makati Coliseum.

Promoters Lito Orillana, Rudy Salud and the GSM group cast only stags with GSMA and MFGB "Sultanate" stringbands star the Belted.

The Pinoy Cockers Association of the Philippines (PCAP) derby series ended Monday night with the Jade Record Red entry of duman Sandoy, Edsel Alvarez and Raffy Campos bagging the PCAP Stagfighter of the Year title with 25 points.

At Santa Ana Park
By Top Choice

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- BSP seen to ease key policy rates /B10

BUSINESS
Editor Raul G. Marvelo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano

Mutual fund values slump amid crisis

GSIS, Philam among hardest hit; bond funds least affected

By Dianne L. Lucas

LOCALLY MANAGED MUTUAL FUNDS HAVE BEEN PUMmeled by the global financial crisis, with those of Philam Asset Management Inc. and the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) being among the hardest hit.

This was contained in the latest report of the Investment Company Association of the Philippines (Icap), which tracks the performance of 40 mutual funds operating in the local financial system.

According to the report, the worst performer in the balanced fund category as of Oct. 20 was Philam Fund Inc., which has lost 30.63 percent of its value since the start of the year.

This was followed by GSIS Mutual Fund Inc. whose value has declined by 29.66 percent for 2008.

A balanced fund's main as a pool of cash which clients entrust to fund managers in invest equally between relatively risk-free bonds and riskier stocks. Mostly the nature of balanced funds protects them against sharp declines in either security class.

GSIS Mutual Fund is managed by Philam's fund manager's according to parameters set by the state pension fund.

Evaluated on an annual basis, the performance of the Philam Fund and GSIS Mutual Fund are even worse, showing declines of 33.58 percent and 32.86 percent, respectively.

According to the Icap data, however, mutual funds invested purely in the stock market showed poorer returns for both a year-to-date and annual performance reviews, mainly because equities have taken the brunt of the global market meltdown.

The worst performer in this category is Philippine Stock Index Fund Corp. whose holdings mimic closely the performance of the local bourse. The Icap data showed that it was down 43.05 percent since the start of the year and 43.98 percent since a year ago.

This was followed by another Philam product—Philam Strategic Growth Fund Inc.—which has dropped 35.33 percent since the start of the year, and a total of 39.04 percent since a year ago.

In general, funds invested in bonds, either peso- or dollar-denominated, performed better, either breaking even or showing only slight declines during the period.

The notable exceptions were Philam Dollar Bond Fund Inc. whose value dropped 16.79 percent since the start of the year and Cirtapublic Dollar Bond Fund Corp., which reported a 12.33 percent decline in value.

According to a mutual fund official who spoke on condition of anonymity, the weak performance of mutual funds could often be aggravated by large client redemptions, which force fund managers to sell their holdings in bonds and stocks.

These "takedowns" to satisfy cash redemption further drive down the prices of remaining assets held by the funds, which in turn, results in a lower net asset value reported to the Icap.

CURRENCIES

OCTOBER

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 48.18 =

As of p.m. Oct. 21, 2008

STOCK MARKET

(See stock market report on Page B4)

Stocks gain 2.6%

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 2.6 PERCENT higher yesterday, following the lead of other foreign markets, dealers said.

The composite index rose 63.86 points to 2,115.74, while the all-shares index was up 1.6 percent to 1,360.11 points.

There were 83 gainers against 28 losers and 38 unchanged.

Turnover totaled 1.13 billion shares worth ₱1.83 billion.

"We are just following the other markets. It's really just the positive sentiment from the G7-or-the-new-stimulus package," said a dealer of Unitex Securities Inc.

However the dealer, who asked not to be identified, said the rally would not last long.

"It all depends on how Wall Street fares," she warned.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. gained 3.76 percent to ₱2,385.

Globe Telecom Inc. gained 2.3 percent to ₱900.

San Miguel Corp. was its "A" shares rise 3.4 percent to ₱45.50 while its "B" shares gained 1.12 percent to ₱40. AFP

Software group redoubles anti-piracy drive

A GROUP COMPOSED OF SOFTWARE DEvelopers and government regulators yesterday reinforced their efforts against intellectual property rights violations such as piracy and counterfeiting in the country.

Spearheaded by the local unit of Microsoft, the renewed drive to improve the Philippines' image as a hotbed of piracy was held in conjunction with the observance of IP Awareness Month in the Philippines and the software giant's worldwide announcement of "Global Anti-Piracy Day," a simultaneous launch of education initiatives and enforcement actions in 99 countries vis-à-vis measures to combat the sophisticated, illegal trade of pirated and counterfeit software.

"At a time when the global economy is in bad shape, there is now a need more than ever to promote innovation, economic opportunity and growth," Microsoft Philippines managing director Rafael Rufino said at a briefing in Makati City.

The company was joined in its efforts by industry partners such as the Intellectual Property Coalition (IPC) and the Philippine Anti-Piracy Team (PAPT).

An estimate by the regional Business Software Alliance watchdog pegs the piracy rate in the Philippines at 69 percent, meaning more than two-thirds of all software being used in the country are illegally sourced.

The PAPT—composed of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), Optical Media Board (OMB), and Philippine National Police (PNP)—has decided its enforcement activities against companies using unlicensed software to exclude retail collection.

To date, the OMB has initiated inspections against six software retailers allegedly selling pirated disks of numerous programs.

Microsoft also worked with the NBI, conducting three raids against system builders that pre-installed PCs with unlicensed copies of Windows XP. Windows Vista or Microsoft Office as an incentive for sale.

So far, there are three successful convictions of copyright infringers involving Mi-

SOFTWARE/ B3

Gov't sees exports at $84B in 2010

Private sector less optimistic

By Bernard W. Dominguez

THE LOCAL EXPORT SECTOR is targeting a revenue growth of up to 15 percent in the next three years to $84.4 billion by 2010 with President Macapagal-Arroyo's approval of a new three-year Export Development Plan, according to the Export Development Council (EDC).

Based on the plan, the government projects export earnings to increase to $64.2 billion in 2009 or about 9 percent from $58.6 billion in 2007.

However, the Philippine Exporters Confederation said such target may have to be reviewed as the global financial meltdown may have rendered it "unrealistic."

The EDC said that under the plan, which President Macapagal-Arroyo approved last September, export of goods are expected to grow by between 4 and 8 percent while those of services are expected to grow by between 10 percent and 40 percent.

"The plan will focus on high-value exports like minerals and information and communication technology-based services," the agency said.

"Other revenue streams are electronics, food, housestyle products, motor vehicles, parts and components, textile and apparel, as well as construction, health and wellness, logistics, entertainment, and education," it added.

The EDC said the ESP 2008-2010 maps out the strategies to achieve the set targets for export earnings, as seen against the background of revenue trends that affect global demand for Philippine goods and services like the recession in the United States, steep rise in oil and food prices, and also global opportunities.

"Nine features of the plan include strategies that will bolster competitive intelligence and branding consciousness, capacity building of enterprises, and more aggressive export promotion," the EDC said. "The President also lent record to focus on countries and game development."

On the other hand, Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr., president of the Philippine Exporters Confederation, said the targets would have to be reviewed and scaled down to reflect the effects of a global recession.

Ortiz-Luis, who also sits in EDC vice chair representing the private sector, said Philexport would assess how deep the recession in the United States and Europe would be and how it would impact on Philippine exports.

Still, he expressed confidence that there would still be growth in exports even if the targets may have to be reviewed.

Look who's losing money, too

Biz Buzz

By the staff

BORED BY THE CONSTANT DEFERENCE of the GSIS' foreign investments, Winston Garcia has come up with a revelation of his own: losing, no doubt, Mr. formidable intelligence rewards it. According to him, the pensions and retirement money fund of this large, publicly listed utility firm now has a deficit of P15 billion, so thanks to the very same stock market crash that has pummeled its $600-million global investments program. Because of this, Garcia says the employees of this utility firm should be worried since their retirement benefits may have already evaporated.

More importantly, Garcia says he will not be surprised if the owners of this utility firm react to raising the rates they charge to consumers pretty soon to make up for the losses they are incurring across their vast business empire.

The reader gets no points for guessing which utility firm Garcia is referring to.

Braulio L. Lucas

Quo vadis, AIM?

AITIS 40 years, the Asian Institute of Management may soon move in a new home. Amid the doubts, which deemed the property along Paseo de Roxas Avenue in Makati City (across from Greenbelt 1) as AIM to the '60s, is offering the business school a new place under a proposed swap deal.

In a letter to its alumni, AIM said: "... the school wishes to seek your opinion regarding a major initiative of your school. This is part of the implementation of AIM's renewed strategy to be the management school of choice for those that want to operate in Asia. To be able to finance this new strategy and to aggressively revive our brand, AIM management is contemplating a major move that will, in effect, relocate the campus of the school. This project, now valued at about P3 billion. This move is designed to fully extinguish our debt (P290 million), create a new, dynamic campus and hopefully leave us with excess liquidity for the start of an endowment fund.

"We are being offered a real estate arrangement with Ayala Corp., which involves a land swap deal involving our present campus. The opportunity has offered us two options to move our campus to a strategic location. These options exemplify two extremes—one is urban living type, while the other is university-destination type.

The first option is to move the campus to the heart of the wealthy district, specifically at the Zuellig Property on Makiguy Street. This option locates the campus to be connected to a high-rise building and part of an overall commercial-residential project.

The second option is to move the campus to the latest major project of Ayala Land called Nuvali, in the outskirts of Southern Metro Manila area. With Ayala Land Inc. as master developer, the five hectare site will allow for a sprawling university-type, low-rise environment for AIM.

But of the Nuvali option is to leave the AIM Conference Center and Hotel out of the deal so that AIM would still have a foothold in Makati for the degree courses, while the degree programs move to Nuvali.

The alumni are asked to answer a survey and vote on the two options. Margot Quisumbing-Ibrado

Brown's advice: DON'T buy Philex

PHILEX MINING Corp. chair Walter Brown has this crisp piece of advice to the company's stockholders regarding its upcoming P6-billion stock rights offer.

"I am pleased to inform you that you don't have to do anything," he told during a press briefing. "You just have to sit back, relax and don't exercise your preemptive right. Just let Mr. Bengzon line up to his commitment and buy the shares."

Sixteen mining members at the briefing were also treated to a rare display of brazen honesty from stockholders who had a difficult time concealing off the Social Security System from acquiring more shares in Philex.

A minority stockholder who attended the briefing "advised" ASB chief Ramon Ang and his cronies in Philex to invest in the stock now "quite speculative." The stockholder said Philex was a "gambling stock and precious bonds should not be putting private employees' hard-earned money into those stocks.

Brown countered, saying that Philex is "not that speculative" since it is dependent on market prices of metals.

He also took an indirect swipe at the ability of state institutions in running private businesses when he explained Philex's stance against a possible exercise of GSIS' supposed preemptive right. The company, he said, "wants to make clear to people that Philex is a professionally managed company." Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacsamana

$10-B breakaba

THE PHILIPPINES became the international laughingstock last week after the World Bank denied President Arroyo's announcement that a $10-billion facility would be set up to help take out bad assets from local banks. Economic managers in town who attempted to clarify the issue ended up muddling it some more when they claimed it was the International Monetary Fund that had committed such funding.

Someone who reviewed the recording of the Washington-based meetings senior (the World Bank official Michael Klein indeed mentions $10 billion in funding during a meeting specifically convened for the Philippine-initiated regional defense summit. Somebody even followed up with a query on whether the amount was enough. Klein's response, reportedly in the Filipino: "Hopefully it won't even be used at all." So the Philippine delegation led by Finance Secretary Margarito Teves was surprised by the details that came out later, not just from the World Bank but from Singapore, which was represented during the meetings by Deputy Prime Minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam who is "economics." Z. It ain't over till the fat lady sings (and sometimes the lady who sings is not fat, but has a mole, instead). Boots C. Bautista

Philam Savings may go first

AIG's crown jewel in its life insurance business, but a decision the sale of their banking arm AIG Philam Savings Bank may soon be forged ahead of any other asset under the Philamlife group.

Philam Savings now has 25 outlets in quotas, not sources say. We assumed the list isn't closed to scores of major financial institutions and middle-sized commercial banks, other thrift banks and even some foreign players with existing consumer banking interests. At least six of the potential buyers are global players (including a private-equity firm) and can even afford to bid for the Philamlife group itself.

Philam Savings is quite small, with nine branches and only P13 billion in assets. But it has a clean balance sheet, a growing credit card portfolio (with 232,000 cardholders) and is done very "easy" for any of those entities in-digest. A shortlist is expected to be drawn up by early November. Doris C. Dumlao

Software group . . .

From page B1

crated products since 1995.

"It's high time for people to realize that piracy is negatively affecting the economy," Chief Supt. Edu Manzano said in a statement. "We are further intensifying our efforts against pirates and counterfeiters not only in Metro Manila but our nationwide. We will not stop until every IPR violation, whether small businesses or big businesses, has been apprehended."

Microsoft Philippines has implemented awareness programs to educate the public, most especially system builders about the consequences of software piracy citing local laws by issuing letters and holding regular meetings. As a result of these efforts, a survey carried out between June and September showed that the piracy rate in the so-called system builder segment has dropped from 90 percent to 70 percent. Dumlao L. Lucas

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300	P1500/day
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1000	P5,000/day

AMOUNT OF PREMIUMS

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200	1,691.00	1,694.00
300	2,545.00	2,541.00
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500	4,235.00	4,235.00
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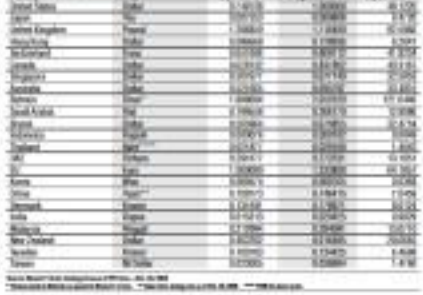

MILF: The first step to peace

THE SUPREME COURT HAS RULED—IS struck as forceful as I have read in years—that the memorandum of understanding on ancestral domain (MOA-AD) declared by a treacherous government panel and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) was unconstitutional. Where does the country go from here?

Alphabet soups of multifaith groups are going to conduct workshop seminars to search for peaceful solutions to the conflict in Central Mindanao. There will meeting people will talk up a storm. The Philippine government and the MILF will be asked to go back to the table and talk peace. The talks will drag on, as it has these past 14 years. In the end, the talks will accomplish nothing.

In the meantime, the MILF will recruit, rescue and regroup. They will be stronger than ever before. And more of our brave soldiers will die in battle, not to mention the poor civilians caught in the crossfire.

The trouble with peace talks, as Defy Mercado, defense secretary under President Joseph Estrada, used to say, "After months of endless talks, there is no peace."

President Arroyo should take a tip from Tony Blair. When he was elected Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, he told the Irish Republican Army (IRA), which had been waging a bloody war against the British for decades, "Lay down your arms. Then, we will talk peace. Otherwise, you will be left behind, because the bus is leaving." The IRA laid down their arms. Peace and prosperity followed.

The President puts it differently. "I will no longer negotiate with a gun pointed at my head." She is absolutely right, but she should follow this up and tell the MILF, "You cannot shoot your way into the mainstream of Philippine society. Lay down your arms. Then, we will talk peace. Or else, you will be left behind, because the bus is leaving."

A deadline should be set and places where the MILF can turn in their arms should be designated. After the deadline has passed, those still carrying firearms should be relentlessly tracked down as bandits.

And, please, no more foreign intermediaries of whatever ranger or color. We Filipinos should, and must, solve the problem by ourselves.

Above all, the Moros should finally learn that life is a give-and-take affair, and prosperity can come only with peace.

When Moros in put up a business in an area where headers armed with Armalite rifles and grenade launchers roam around with impunity? But, with peace in Central Mindanao, business will flourish. Businessmen will flock to wherever profits can be made. Everybody will benefit, especially the Moros. To use a cliché, a rising tide lifts all boats.

Then, as Central Mindanao prospers in peace, a robust insurance industry will literally flourish in its midst. We can at last say the Moro community there shall have become a modern society.

All these years, the last step on the road to peace has been disarmament. Not anymore. The first step on the road to peace is for the MILF rebels to lay down their arms.

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honorato C. General

Actually, the MILF and the rest of the Moro community in Mindanao have already missed the bus.

The areas where the MILF operates are the poorest in Mindanao. There is very little economic activity.

On the other hand, the Christian communities are thriving. Such cities as Cotabato, General Santos, Iligan, Cagayan de Oro, Malaybalay, Davao and Surigao are glistening beacons of progress.

On top of the heap is Davao City now a bustling metropolis, with an international airport and multistar hotels.

After a hundred years since the Christians began settling in Mindanao, the Moros have not learned from their example that farming is a noble enterprise and businessmen is more than just selling ground LSDs and smuggled knickknacks.

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TIME RECORDERS

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Vivacore Global Solutions, Inc. informs the general public of the loss of the following stock certificate:

Stock certificate no. 288 representing 2,000 shares of stocks of Vivacore Global Solutions, Inc. issued and registered on September 2, 2007 in the name of Mr. Thomas Murray.

Should you have any adverse claim with respect to the said stock certificate, please contact Ms. Richee Mendez, Director – Tax and Corporate Affairs, of Vivacore Global Solutions, Inc. at (02) 180 8887.

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Gov't studies PDIC infusion options

THE GOVERNMENT is now studying options on how to raise the P40 billion it could demand today from the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. (PDIC), noting that the amount has already been included in the proposed 2009 national budget.

There are moves in Congress to raise the minimum deposit insurance coverage of each depositor to P500,000 from the current P250,000. But a hike in the insurance coverage would require an infusion of P40 billion in the fund of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. (PDIC).

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves told reporters that one option was for the government to fully shoulder the infusion. But government expenditures have to be included in the yearly budget proposals to be approved by Congress, he added.

"The Solomon of P40 billion is just a new proposal, so it has not been included in the proposed 2009 budget yet," Teves said.

Teves, who is also chair of PDIC, said another detail that has to be clarified is whether the government should make a one-time or staggered infusion.

Another school of thought is burden-sharing," Teves said. Under this proposal, the government will shoulder a large part of the P40- billion, while the balance will be shouldered by the depositors.

Michelle U Remo

Way cleared for ₱1.36-B Cavite road project

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CORP. has secured the approval of relevant agencies for the construction of a P1.36-billion toll way that will link the Daang Hari road in Cavite and the South Luzon Expressway at Sucoma Heights in Muntinlupa City.

Transportation Secretary Leandro R. Mendoza, who is also chair of the government's investment arm, said the Department of Public Works and Highways last May had issued to the NDC a "no-objection" letter to the project. NDC and a private treaty will jointly undertake the construction of the tollway.

Revilla said that the Toll Regulatory Board had already acknowledged the road project last July.

The project is part of the Comprehensive Integrated Infrastructure Program of the National Economic and Development Authority, with NDC and its subsidiary the Mabisig Inc. Tomas Development Inc. identified as implementing agencies, Revilla said.

Ma. Lourdes F. Bobuntio, NDC acting general manager, described the project as a four-lane, 4.4-kilometer toll road that would link Daang Hari in Cavite and the SLEx near the Sucoma Heights interchange in Muntinlupa City. The proposed road will cut through the New Bilibid Prison Complex.

"[The] project will decongest heavy traffic in parts of Cavite, Las Piñas and Muntinlupa, and will reduce road distances from Daang Hari to the Alabang viaduct by 3 km," Bobuntio said. "The project will also complement the redevelopment plan for the NBP as directed by President Macapagal-Arroyo."

Bobuntio explained that the toll road was a component of the Cavite-Laguna Expressway National Road Project (Calax) of the DPWH.

She said the Calax project evolved from the recommendation of two studies conducted by the Metro Manila Urban Transportation Integration Study and Cebu Transport Strategy, and the Short-term Program and Policies project, a component of the Cavite-Laguna Urban Development and Environmental Management Project of the World Bank.

BTr rejects T-bond bids

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT YESTERDAY REJECTED all bids for the 10-year treasury bonds as bankers sought much higher yields, indicating a lack of appetite for the securities.

Had the Bureau of the Treasury's auction committee accepted bids for the long-term bonds, the new 10-year borrowing rate of the government would have hit an average of as much as 8.475 percent, higher than the previously recorded rate of 7.227 percent.

Tenders for the 10-year bonds reached only P3.1 billion, representing an underwhelming subscription to the government's debt offering of P6 billion.

According to National Treasurer Rolando Tan, the government has P3.2 billion worth of maturing debt instruments due it has to pay this week.

Still, the auction committee decided to reject all bids for the 10-year bonds, believing that the government was liquid enough to meet short-term expenditure requirements, Tan said.

Tan said that for now, the BTr would study market conditions in the coming weeks to see if the sale of short-term government securities would be better than offering long-term bonds.

"I think investors are still cautious about the investment climate," Tan said.

He agreed with observations that some investors were holding on to their cash, if not liquidating their securities investments, on the global financial environment remained volatile.

Tan said the announcement of the government's fiscal condition in September also hurled portfolio investors' concerns.

The other day, the Department of Finance reported that the government incurred a budget deficit of P33.4 billion in the first nine months of this year, weighed down by lower-than-target tax collections.

The latest deficit figure was higher than the P40 billion seen in the same period a year ago, exceeding even the P33.1-billion ceiling for the first three quarters set under the government's original fiscal program for 2008.

Tan noted that the P33.1-billion ceiling was set when the government was still keen on balancing the budget by the end of 2008. When economic managers abandoned the zero-deficit goal this year, the deficit ceiling for the entire year was reset at P73.0 billion.

Tan said that the deficit in the first nine months kept the government on track to meet its full-year budget program.

Philippine Airlines cuts fuel surcharge

PHILIPPINE AIRLINES WILL REDUCE ITS fuel surcharge by as much as $20 per international one-way flight, and up to P400 per domestic round-trip flight effective Nov. 1, as oil prices in world markets continue to fall.

PAL president Jaime J. Bautista said the move was in response to President Macapagal-Arroyo's call for oil and transport companies to pass on the benefits of declining fuel prices to the riding public.

"We are sharing with our passengers whatever benefits are due us in terms of lower oil-cost savings," Bautista said. "This is one way of giving back, however modest, to our loyal customers."

For PAL flights between the Philippines and international points, the surcharge decreases by a range of $10 to $20 per round-trip flight.

For flights between Manila and other domestic points, the surcharge drops by a range of P100 to P400 per round-trip flight.

PAL said that should the cost of fuel rise up further, it would adjust its surcharge accordingly.

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INVITATION TO BID

Sealed bids will be received and thereafter opened in the Conference Room, 5th Floor, SRA Building, North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, on the following date and time:

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Blk. 10, Unit 1-B	1 Unit	1,000 sqm.	1,000 sqm.	10,000,000.00
Blk. 10	1 Unit	1,000 sqm.	1,000 sqm.	10,000,000.00
Total		3,000 sqm.	3,000 sqm.	P30,000,000.00

Bid form including price forms and Terms and Conditions of the sale of condominium units may be obtained from the Secretariat, SRA Head Management & Internal Committee, on December 10, 2008.

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES	DATE OF ACTIVITY
Issuance of Letter of Intent and Prequalification Forms	November 3, 2008
Deadline for the submission of Letter of Intent and Prequalification Requirements	November 17, 2008
Opening of Bids/Turnover the Terms and Regulations on the sale of Unit	November 19, 2008
Pre-Bid Conference	November 19, 2008 at 9:00 a.m.
Public Opening	November 20, 2008 at 9:00 a.m.

For inquiries of the Prequalification Committee or to withdraw letters regarding the disposal of the unit at the SRA Training Room, North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

All bids must be accompanied by a deposit either in cash or Manager's/Cashier's check equivalent to 10% of the bid amount. For inquiries, please call:

The Head Management & Internal Committee Secretariat
Tel. No. 426-3636

The SRA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality or defect therein, and to accept any or all bid which may be considered most advantageous to the SRA.

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Spotlight is on Kyocera in Print and Label Philippines

Philcopy, in its continuous efforts to maximize its marketing opportunities and engagements in connection with customers recently participated in the Print and Label Philippines , held on October 8 to 11, 2008 at the SMX Convention, Mall of Asia, Pasay City. The featured line was Kyocera, which showcased its full range of copiers, printers and MFPs that utilize ECOSYS technology which translates to long life serviceability and lowest total cost of ownership (TCO). The exhibition ended successfully, with Philcopy leading the way towards the search for innovative document management solutions.

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Locked & Loaded: Protect your investment!

Investing in today's times seems like a daunting proposition. The impact of the sub-prime crisis in the U.S. has caused the downfall of financial "giants" and has sent shockwaves across the global markets. Stock market indices across the world have dropped significantly in such a short period of time.

This has created an investment environment that is full of fear, doubt, and uncertainty. With such well-respected investment banks and institutions declaring bankruptcy or sending a bail-out plea, it is no surprise that today's ordinary investors are afraid that their own investments will fail.

"In my adult lifetime, I don't think I've ever seen people as fearful economically as they are right now," said the richest man in the world, 78-year old Warren Buffet, Chairman & CEO of Berkshire Hathaway, and considered to be the world's greatest investor, in an exclusive interview with broadcast journalist Charlie Rose earlier this month.

"They have seen the world markets screw up. They've gotten worried about money-market funds," he explains further. "They've seen 8% of the bank deposits of the United States get moved within the last couple of weeks from institutions that they thought were fine a few months ago to other institutions."

"They're not wrong to be worried," he concluded.

The ordinary Filipino investor has not been spared from the effects of this global financial crisis.

As such, Filipinos right now are looking for an investment instrument that will give them the chance to substantially grow their hard-earned money but without the risk of having that money dwindle to nothing, especially in these market conditions. In short, Filipinos want to protect their investment while making their money grow.

What Filipino investors need right now is an investment that is "*Locked & Loaded.*"

To help address the current needs of the Filipino investor, AXA Philippines, one of the largest and the fastest-growing life insurer in the country today, is offering its *Locked & Loaded* capital-protected investment for a limited time only.

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For a minimum single investment of as low as only P200,000, *Locked & Loaded* offers investors the secure and easy opportunity to protect their assets while enjoying substantial growth potential. This limited offer from AXA Philippines is available from October 6 to 26, 2008 only.

Protect your investments today — get *Locked & Loaded*! For more information on *Locked & Loaded*, call the AXA Philippines Customer Care Hotlines at (02) 5819-AXA (2962) or (02) 3231-AXA (2962), or visit the AXA Philippines website at www.axa.com.ph. You may also ask about *Locked & Loaded* from a Financial Advisor Executive in any of the AXA or Metrobank branches near you.

AXA tops local VLIP market

Latest reports from the Insurance Commission website showcase AXA Philippines' dominance in the variable life insurance category with a reported premium income of PhP11.1 billion, almost double its PhP5.9 billion output in 2006, and a market share of over 42%. The only company to have posted a variable premium income over PhP5.2 billion for 2007, AXA Philippines introduced variable life insurance products in 2005. Variable life insurance, the new breed of life insurance products, invests a portion of the premiums in bonds, equities and money market funds.

The upsurge was attributed mainly to the insurance company's aggressive 80% growth in total premium income in 2007. AXA Philippines also reported an increase in overall market share to 22% from 16% the previous year. Considered the fastest growing life insurer in the country, AXA nearly tripled its business in the past two years and broke into the top two spots of the total premium income rankings, surpassing some of the more established insurers in the Philippines.

The Insurance Commission rankings, which are based on premium income, show that the life insurance industry grew by 13.8% in 2007 with a total of P74.1 billion versus the P65.4 billion it posted in 2006. Growth in the industry was spurred by the increased contribution of the variable life insurance category which now accounts for nearly half (48%) of total premium income, a huge increase considering that the category only contributed 27% last year.

BUSINESS

Bangko Sentral seen to ease key policy rates

By Michelle V. Rerra

INVESTMENT BANK MERRILL Lynch expects the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to end its tightening mode, and even cut its overnight borrowing rate by 25 basis points, when its Monetary Board meets in November.

In an "Global Economics Weekly," Merrill Lynch said some central banks, including that of the Philippines, are poised to loosen their monetary policies by reducing borrowing rates as a move to prevent their economies from further slowing down.

"A global meltdown has probably been averted, but the fundamental path ahead looks tough," the investment bank said. "Asian policy needs to turn more aggressive, to keep pace with the world's rich economies."

The monetary tightening move adopted by the BSP the previous month was in response to the sharp rise in consumer prices. Since June, the BSP has implemented three hikes in its overnight borrowing and lending rates, to end them at 6 and 8 percent, respectively.

But Merrill Lynch said another round of tightening was not likely, given the need to pump-prime economies.

The BSP earlier explained that the hike in policy rates of the previous months was meant to ease inflation, which had hit a 17-year high of 12.3 percent in August.

An increase in the BSP's borrowing rate encourages banks to park more of their funds with the BSP. This tempers growth of money supply and, controls rise in aggregate demand. In turn, inflation eases.

However, a hike in the BSP's policy rates has the adverse impact of curbing economic growth. This is because higher interest rates make bank loans more expensive, thus discouraging capital investments.

The BSP said that, after the policy rates were raised, inflation would stand as a single digit level in the first quarter of next year. The BSP's forecast is shared by various analysts and economists.

Merrill Lynch expects the Philippine economy to grow by only 4.3 percent this year as a result of the global slowdown. This forecast is less than the government's projected growth of between 4.4 and 4.8 percent this year.

Merill Lynch says RP economy to grow by only 4.3%

Gov't doubles 'palay' budget to P17B

By Amy R. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT has doubled the budget for the domestic palay procurement this year to P17 billion, in a bid to shore up the national rice stockpile by end-2008.

The government hopes to accumulate a rice supply stock enough to last for 30 days.

At the sidelines of the 54th Philippine Business Conference, Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap said that the additional budget, which was recently approved by the Cabinet, would form part of the National Food Authority's (NFA) procurement program.

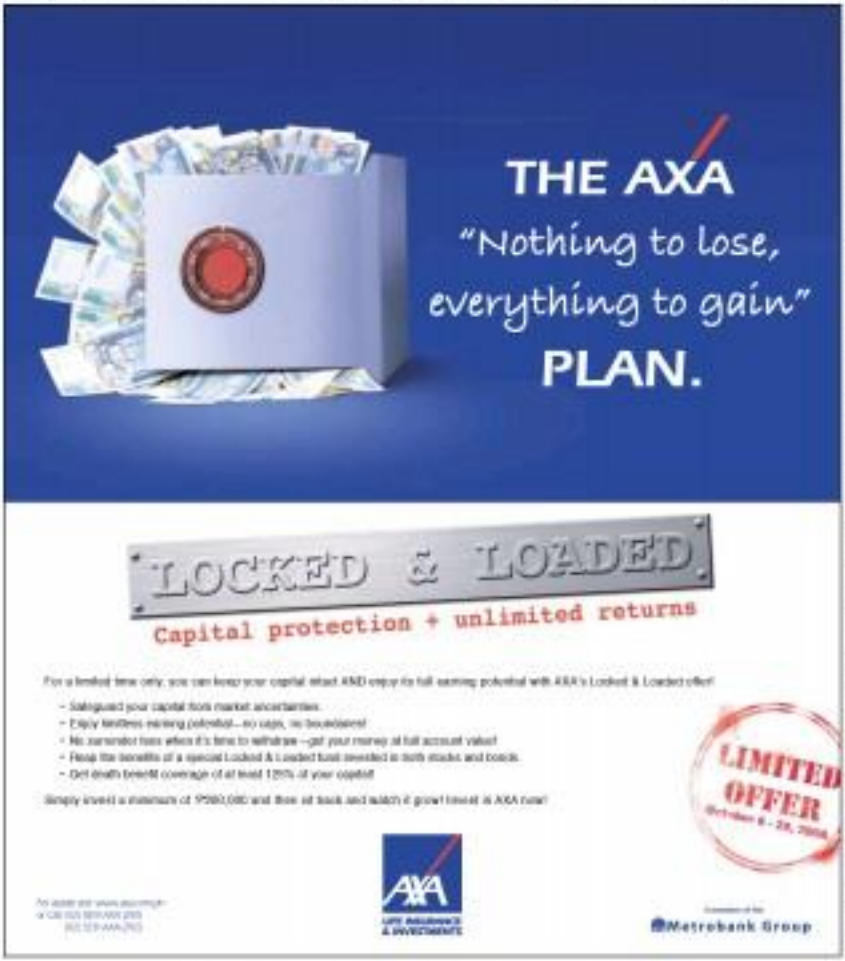
Initially, the government had earmarked P8.5 billion to cover the NFA's local procurement of 500,000 metric tons of palay.

By September, the NFA had announced that it would double its palay procurement target to 1 million MT, equivalent to 5.6 percent of the total output palay output this year of 17.3 million MT. The budget, however, is still pending with the Department of Finance.

With less than three months left in the year, Yap expressed confidence that the agency would meet its palay procurement target.

"At this time last year, the NFA only bought 6,000 MT of palay from farmers," Yap said. "Unlike that, the NFA has already bought 230,000 MT of palay from farmers. I think there's promise and I think this is possible, especially since President Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered us to cease of the NFA's buying stations."

As of the first week of October, the NFA has been buying at an average of 120,000 50-kilogram bags a day. In September, palay procurement had reached 2 million bags.



John Cesar D. Mangosing

MOTORING

THE 'GREEN' BT-50

Mazda's own pickup line to woo attractive market

THE NEW Mazda BT-50 boasts of the 2.5-liter or 3.0-liter 4-cylinder models. Its 16-valve DOHC engine produces 143 hp and 228 Nm of torque.

By Tess R. Serrano
Photos by Ryan Lim

KNOWN MORE IN THIS country for its sporty sedans, Mazda Philippines did a major course last week when it introduced a lifestyle pickup known as Australia, Thailand, Canada, Russia and New Zealand as the Mazda BT-50.

Mazda executives say the pickup segment in the Philippines had been growing faster than the industry up about 90 percent in the last two years.

Curious about how Mazda could take the local market's eyes away from the likes of the Strakas, the Navaras and the Hi-Luxes, Inquirer Motoring participated in Mazda's ride-and-drive activity on a drizzly Oct. 14 when BT-50s zoomed from Manila Dowsdallo to the Subic International Raceway.

Along the way, Eric C. Wahlstrom, Mazda Philippines' assistant vice president for marketing, spelled out the rhyme and reason behind Mazda's (re) venture into the pickup segment.

THE NEW Mazda BT-50has two five-speed gearbox versions— a 2WD version and the 4WD transfer system that features smart, easy-shift operation ideal for commercial use or for more adventurous off-road applications.

TSI: This is the first time Mazda Philippines, under Ford, introduced a pickup, right? Why did it take this long? Was it due to the relationship with the previous distributor Hyundai Motors Corp.?

BOM: No, this is the first time Mazda under Ford Group Philippines has will be releasing a pickup in the market. It took a while for us to release partly because of the HMC matter that Mazda Japan had to settle first, but not only that. It was also to best manage our product entries into the market [Mazda also recently introduced the CX-9, MX-5 and the new Mazda3] and invest as well with our dealer network expansion plans, and right market conditions. Also, by launching it now, we are introducing the facelifted BT-50 here which has already been released to the other major markets like Thailand and Australia.

In Manila Philippines introducing the BT-50 does—among others—to the local market's shift to preference for more fuel-efficient and multipurpose commercial utility vehicles over cars?

That is correct. We are seeing a shift in engine preference from gasoline to diesel, as well as a shift from bigger to smaller cars [or downsizing]. There is a bigger demand for diesel engines in our market today, and introducing a diesel-powered vehicle would be perfect for Mazda.

But how about the pickup segment in the Philippines, in particular?

The pickup segment in the Philippines is very healthy. It has been growing faster than the industry. It is up about 90 percent in the last 2 years. That's nearly double the demand from just two years ago.

The BT-50 would come in as CBU [completely built up unit] from Thailand, right?

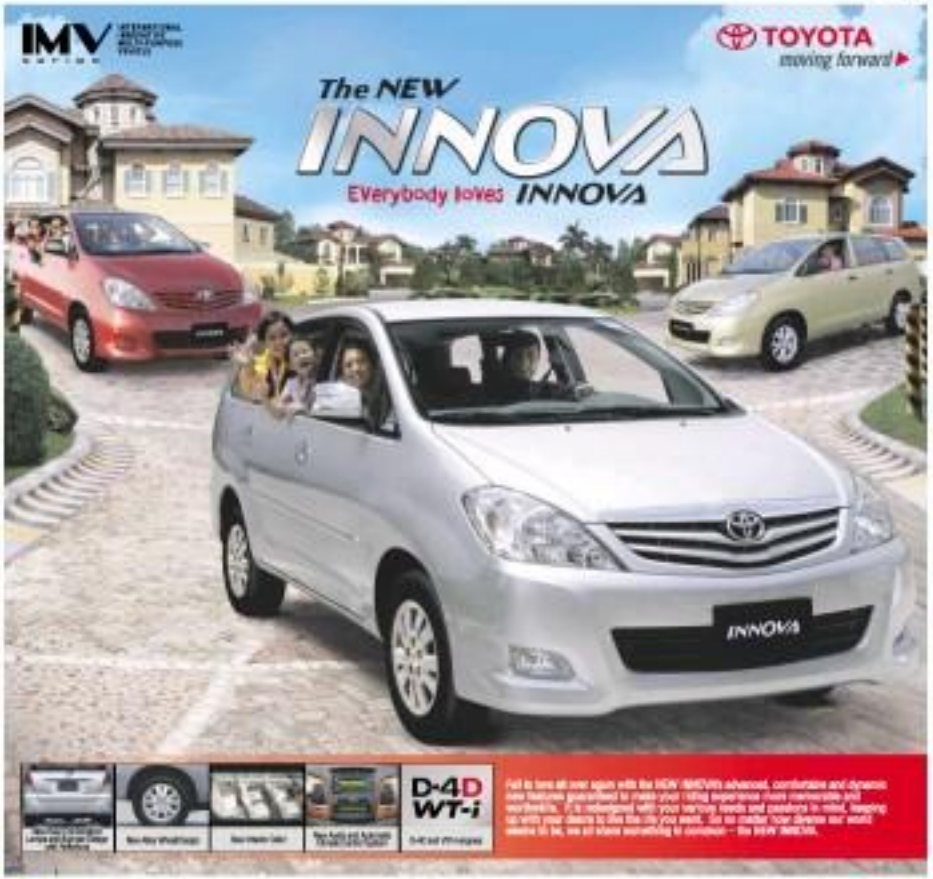
Yes, CBU from Thailand, just like all other brands. That is now the major production hub for pickups globally.

There have been good reviews of the BT-50, particularly in its fuel consumption. Has Mazda Philippines done its own fuel test here?

We haven't done our own actual test in the Philippines per se since the units just started arriving last week. However, votes in Japan have shown that the BT-50 has one of the best fuel economy ratings versus competition. For example, a consumption of 13.2 km/liter at 60 kph constant speed at a test track for the 2.5L 4X2 MT was achieved.

But the BT-50 will be directly competing with the Ford Ranger. Won't it "kill" Ford Ranger sales here?

No, we don't expect the Mazda BT-50 to significantly affect the current sales performance of the Ford Ranger. Yes, there may be some sales substitution but we expect that to be minimal because we expect the Mazda BT-50 to appeal to a different type of buyer. Ford and Isuzu are to its targets other competitive brands. Mazda will appeal to those who are looking for a lifestyle pickup that is both stylish and handles and drives like a car. We will do this through product features, pricing and



It starts when you sit

NOT ALL DRIVERS ARE CREATED THE same. While an elite few are capable of truly amazing things behind the wheel, most well spend their lives merely trying to survive the never-ending commute from home to work. Whether your driving problems are about clearing blind crests at full throttle or merely trying to dodge wayward, lane-skipping sedan, skill is the ultimate judge of success at the end of the driving day.

The groundwork for driving talent is not overseas, with better schooling critical to achievement. It is the quality of the instruction that separates the good from the bad.

Any teaching syllabus for driving worth its salt must begin with driving position. If a school or instructor fails to touch on this topic, look for another school. Any driver who will deny me validity on this point will then go on to say that driving skill is built in.

The first step is to orient yourself using the steering wheel and the seats of your chair. Generally the center of the wheel must roughly level with the driver's chest when he/she is in the driver's seat and base. This will automatically orient your body into an upright position to 90 percent of all cars ever made.

The next thing to do is to grasp the steering wheel with both hands. Thinking of the circumference of the wheel as a clock, the best hand locations are next to 9 o'clock and 3 o'clock or slightly offset closer at the 10 o'clock and 2 o'clock positions. At all times, your palms should face down with one's thumbs loosely resting on the wheel—you don't need them when you drive.

Easier manipulation

What one wants to achieve is a bend at the elbow when the forearm and the upper arms are anywhere from a 30-degree angle to a 45-degree angle. This will allow for the easiest manipulation of the steering wheel with the least

MY DRIFT

Andre Palma

leverage. One way to check is that with one's arms fully extended, your wrists should be able to brush over the top of the steering wheel with both shoulder pockets pinned firmly in your seat back.

Before you complain about just how unnatural this position feels, notice the changes that your adjustments have effected. Fore and forearm to the greater field of vision that your arms, being so obviously upright. Next, large and quick evasions of the steering wheel are now easier, since you're fixed up your arms' arms to help punch and pull on the wheel with increased leverage. There will be no longer the need to unnaturally pull a vehicle's steering wheel with a reversed palm to execute right maneuvers.

For most body types, this upright riding position will also put the driver's feet in the best position to operate each of the three floor pedals with greater finesse and control. Simple tasks are made easier. Bordering the gas pedal becomes effortless as the ball of your right foot will be solidly planted on the floor pan. A quick forward rotation of your right ankle will put your foot right on top of the brakes. The left foot can now separate the clutch pedal without any difficulty, coming off the footrest to hover over the clutch pedal with the least effort.

Right position

More advanced footwork is also free of a task once you've got the right position shown pat. The left foot can now be planted directly in front of the brake pedal for minutely achieving the car's disposition with the brakes, effectively

MOTORSHOW VENUS

Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. and Summitex PV are bringing Motorshow to Bonifacio Global City. From left are: Pearl SUKMAnan, PBDC head, Commercial Operations, Ray Shelton Garchitorena, STV exec and CEO; and Lourdes Reyes, chief finance officer.

Mazda's own pickup line to woo . . .

From page B-1

communication differentiation.

Is the BT-50 here. It complicated? What are the other advantages of this pickup over the others?

The Mazda BT-50 for the Philippines is Euro 4 emission compliant as mandated by our government, it can comply with Euro 5 emission standards if necessary, like in other markets. The Mazda BT-50 is also 80 (I percent feedback capable which means hopefully that there would be a cheaper alternative for the owner should mechanical become widely available.

I haven't seen the engine yet but is it true that with the widescreen sitting below the radiator support the risk of damage is increased?

No. It may seem like that, but if you inspect closely the intercooler is located within the chassis frame, so damage from cheap incidents or approach at front-end will happen will not damage the intercooler.

Is it true that the previous generation BT-50 had a weak gear box and cylinder problems?

I am not familiar with the previous generation Mazda B-series, but I understand that those models were assembled locally and distributed by exclusive companies. Whatever the case, we don't expect any problems on these for the current Mazda BT-50.

Will Mazda Philippines accept fleet vehicle accounts?

We will not have any fleet specific model, but we will accept fleet inquiries.

How do you plan to compete with segment-leading Mitsubishi Strada, Nissan Navara and the Toyota Hilux?

Right now, our goal is to introduce the Mazda BT-50 first, and establish the brand and gain serious consideration from the pickup market. Also, we recognize that the Mazda brand, as a vehicle, appeals to a very unique and distinct set of individuals, so toppling the leading brands in the segment today is not the objective.

I heard there are several variants of the BT-50 globally. Why is Mazda Philippines introducing only two here?

Given the numerous engine, transmission, drivetrain, body-type combinations, there are potentially 600 different types or models of BT-50 we could bring in. The question is which ones would make sense for us to introduce.

COMMON-RAIL direct-injection engines use an injector that sprays fuel directly and electronically past the glow plug into the combustion chamber.

THE ENGINE with 3 capable, which means it can take in 5 persons without, making this a "green" machine.

Nissan Motor Phils. wins twin global Nissan awards

NISSAN MOTOR PHILIPPINES Inc. recently received two prestigious awards from the global Nissan network for their achievements in service and after-sales performance.

The most recent accolade is the 2008 Nissan International Service Technical Center (Nistec) Global Award. Nistec considers only the most technically adept corporations in the world and to the pinnacle of service competitions in the Nissan network. The skill level and strict requirements of Nistec is even recognized by competitors and has become a benchmark for individual service skills and customer advice-giving.

Great honor

"This is a great honor for Nissan Motor Philippines," says its exec Hong, group head for Aftersales and Service. "Though we have seen the Nistec many times in the past, we believe each win represents our commitment to customer service and the dedication of our service advisors and technicians to give the best to our patrons."

Robinson B. Santiago, a technician of Nissan Gallery Quezon Avenue was the Philippine competitor of Nistec. He will join other delegates to the 2008 Nistec Global Award in Japan through the invitation of Masatoshi Yoshita, general manager of Nissan's Global Service Engineering Department. Nissan Gallery's Head for Service John Romero will accompany Santiago.

A total of 16 representative technicians from 8 areas throughout the world will participate in the world award and only will be represented with one technician each from Taiwan, China and the Philippines. The 2008 Nistec Global Award will be held in Japan on Nov. 17.

WAPC award

Before the Nistec award, however, NMPI also received the prestigious World Aftersales Progress Club, a program to recognize the achievements of all

SANTIAGO, 2008 Nistec winner (at right) with Nissan Motor Philippines

car-sales divisions globally.

It was the second WAPC awards because of its timely submission of NMPI Monthly Operational Reports, intensive analysis of after-sales monthly performance focusing on areas needs for improvement, continuous implementation of new after-sales programs, intensifying and increasing parts and service shop and accessory sales and NMPI's compliance on required Nissan standards under the internal program called 6-CAM.

NMPI is among the select group of winners including the more progressive and well-funded companies in the Nissan world network including Nissan Motors Ltd. of Hong Kong, Arabian Automobiles Co. of Dubai, Singapore's Tan Chong Motors and Dong Feng Nissan of China. It is ranked among the medium-size companies along with Corp. Rico's Nissan Mauritius and the Agencia Durruti of Peru.

"The Nistec and WAPC wins represent milestones for NMPI to after-sales as they ramp-up commitments to progress further in customer satisfaction," commented Steven Ho, NMPI assistant vice president for Sales and Marketing. "These awards also fulfill our dealer's achievements and support to the total uplift of the Nissan brand."

Practical motorists prefer fuel-efficient Toyota Vios

WITH THE UNPREDICTABLE TREND OF crude prices, motorists are more inclined to practical reasons—attributes it concerns their driving habits or their vehicles. This is evident in the shift of the motorists' preference to the Vios, which is now the country's best-selling vehicle.

The automotive technology of the Vios makes it one of the more advantageous choices with its fuel-efficient engine and ergonomic design.

VVTi engine

The engine of the Toyota Vios uses Variable Valve Timing-intelligent technology (dynamic), a continuous valve-timing mechanism that delivers optimal timing by controlling the opening and closing of the intake valves. The VVTi engine also features in various elements such as the spin and throttle opening in its responsive operations.

Said Jun Cantelo, president of the Vios Club in the Philippines: "The Vios is very reliable, even on rough road conditions and many passengers aboard. I'm happy with its fuel economy, acceleration, handling and performance. The Vios has made me save around 500 pesos on fuel/week."

Lamag City, Ilocos Norte councilor Aris Abbas had similar observations: "In traveling on NLEX with a speed of 120-140 kph, the Vios gave me an average of 16 km/L. It's much better than my other car. The newer Vios is also more spacious than my 2005 Vios. There is plenty of leg room in the backseat."

The Vios maintains its interior with its tall body shape, long wheelbase and ample height. Rear seats of the Vios feature S-shaped springs that provide sufficient cushion and minimize fatigue during long-distance driving.

Other features

Other significant features of the Toyota Vios are its antilock braking system, which prevents wheel lockup when making hard or on slippery roads; and electronic brake-force distribution, which distributes the right brake force to the front and rear wheels.

These safety features are complemented by the Vios' body and chassis which is made of roughly 48 percent high-tensile steel sheets and a rigid side shell. The modern design of its cockpit interior is also made to reduce the driver's eye movement.

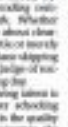
Cantelo and Abbas both represent the steadily increasing population of Filipino automotive enthusiasts who prefer the Toyota Vios.

207 AUTO CENTER INAUGURATION

Shown during the grand opening of the 207 Auto Center Inc. are, from left, 207 Auto Center Board Chair Ike S. Collodon; Jaime Go, BCBC President and CEO Lorenzo Tan, Makati City Councilor Jejomar Erwin Binay Jr., San Juan City Mayor Joseph Victor "JV" Ejercito, and 207 Auto Center President Michael J. Chanco. Her answer in photo is Bishop Rolando (Trio Tiwana of Indunia, Quezon who officiated the show room's opening and blessing ceremonies.

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza



AIDA Sevilla Mendoza is out of the country. Her column will resume next week.

DRIVING within speed while fastening the gas pedal could contribute a lot in saving fuel.

HERE, left, is joined by Myrna Gonzales, IPC center manager for corporate affairs, in welcoming the participants.

Be responsible drivers,

carmaker advises those behind the wheel

By Charles E. Rubio

EXACTLY A MONTH ago the world quietly celebrated Car Free Day that encouraged people to drive less and take other actions to reduce their carbon footprint, that is, their impact on the environment in terms of the amount of greenhouse gases produced by their daily activities.

With all the information we are getting in the past few years, most of us are now in agreement that our individual footprint is making a significant contribution to the dramatic rise of global temperatures.

While this celebration would love to see a world where people drive or use cars at all, its organizers and supporters also encourage other ways to reduce one's personal carbon emissions.

Above all, we don't expect hybrids and electric vehicles to take over the market overnight.

DRIVERS should keep their vehicles well-maintained not just their fuel consumption.

Modified

This is probably one of the reasons Isuzu Philippines Corp. recently modified the layout of its family Day event that is held annually in each of its dealer drive nationwide.

"When before our dealer drive's clients would just bring their family members and friends for a day of fun activities, we decided this time to make the activities more responsive with the times, that is, by adding a fuel-efficiency drive competition," said IPC president Koji Takada.

He explained that car manufacturers like ours are doing their best to come up with vehicles that would improve their buyer's carbon footprint, for example, by developing new generation of diesel engines.

"While ours is in the process of doing this, IPC decided to create awareness on how to conserve on the so-called carbon footprint," Takada said.

Private vehicle

Indeed, everyone wants to have his/her own private vehicle. Or, her with so-convenient causing negative effects on the atmosphere. Vehicle owners should also think on how to efficiently use their cars.

"Driving the speed limit, accelerating lightly and no sudden braking could really improve your fuel efficiency. Since idling for about a minute uses as much fuel as cruising a car, consider turning your vehicle off if you think you are going to stay idle longer than a minute. Of course there are other ways," Takada said.

During the awarding of winners in the recently concluded Bandarra Gobyo leg of the Isuzu Family Challenge, first placers Wyman Esguerra (Mobile) and Elbert Bilmas (motorcycle) achieved a new venue record by posting a 24.88 km/per liter fuel efficiency.

What made it more interesting was they did it driving a manual 2005 Crosswind SUV model, a rather old model if compared to the rest of the Isuzu vehicles that competed in the event.

Secret

"The secret here as we did the usual driving techniques. We did not even use any fuel additives and the last time we changed anything inside the hood was two months ago. I guess what made us successful is that I regularly have this vehicle checked and maintained at IPC Marikina. It makes the vehicle always in top top shape, operating like it's always brand-new," Esguerra explained.

And he may be right.

According to experts, a badly tuned vehicle uses almost 10 percent more fuel than a well-tuned counterpart.

"Be sure to have clogging brakes and low transmission fluid checked, have the wheels aligned and tires rotated. The air and fuel filter should also replaced if needed," suggested Marylou Labrador-Siet, Isuzu Marikina sales manager.

She said that vehicle it would scar an owner to regularly tune up his or her vehicle, the result could be more savings in the long-run.

"While making not only more fuel consumption or more dirty exhaust emissions, imagine the hassle when your vehicle conked out or developed problems in the middle of your drive. That is so inconvenient, indeed," Siet said.

A WELL-PAMPERED vehicle while offering proper driving habits can save you big in the long-run.

The Nissan Frontier Navara:

Part SUV. Part truck. Part sports car.

It is a cross-category comparison one would never dream of making. Sure, you could compare a pick-up to a luxury SUV. Even a company look at the specs sheets drive a closing of the gap between the two in terms of creature comforts and styling. But to equate a truck and a high performance racer?

Believe it. When you unstreathe the power/train from the Navara's sleek, imposing frame, it is right there, staring you in the face: the transmission technology similar to a sports car.

Close-gear ratios are standard in sports cars. It's standard in this truck. It all has to do with what is called close-gear ratios. The ideal transmission can keep the engine revving near its power peak when the vehicle is driving at various speeds. Gear ratios – or the relationship between the number of teeth between two gears – are chosen based on what speeds the vehicle will be traveling.

In a cross-ratio transmission, there is a relatively little difference between the number of teeth of successive gears.

Close-ratio transmission is standard in sports cars which are tuned for maximum power, and where the driver is expected to shift often to keep the engine within its power band.

But just what does it do for a truck?

Shifting up a gear normally results in a drop in the engine RPM. If the gear ratio is too wide, that drop may take the engine out of its power RPM zone. The climb back will be slow and labored. Close-gear systems, however, allow a much smaller drop in engine speed – just at the low end of the engine's power band – thereby allowing the pickup to continue accelerating quickly.

Now combine that with a six-speed transmission and you get an extra high overdrive gear for optimum motorway cruising. At this higher setting, the transmission's effortlessly keeps the engine rpm at a comfortable and more efficient level, resulting in the best fuel economy, less emissions and reduced engine noise.

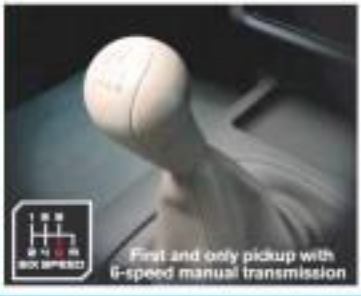
Wave-6-speed, save more fuel. More gears mean the engine revs more efficiently at any speed range – better than rival's 4- and 5-speed vehicles. More gears mean fewer revs, so the engine uses less fuel and doesn't work as hard to maintain speed. Bottomline: you get peak performance without the gas-guzzling side effect.

The Navara's powerplant also has the highest horsepower and torque ratings in its class with a high-powered turbo 2.5 liter CRDI engine. Add to that a solid and superior unique 4 cross member ladder-type frame found only in the Navara, a key factor for safety and long haul durability.

With the close-ratio gearbox of a sports car, the boss might see power found only in the Navara SUT, combined with the comforts of an SUV plus the fuel efficiency of 6-speed, the Navara SUT is your only choice. Deserve nothing less. You deserve nothing less.

The Navara is THE choice for anyone wishing to find that hard or live large but without putting a hole in your pocket.

The Nissan Navara Sport Utility Truck is exclusively distributed by Universal Motors Corporation and is available in 4x4 and 4x2 models, with 6-speed MT or 5-speed automatic. Visit your Nissan dealer or text DIST. UNIVERSAL to schedule a test drive.



First and only pickup with 6-speed manual transmission

2.5L YD25DDTi Common Rail System Direct Injection

Chevrolet Orlando Show Car Signals Chevrolet's Entry into Seven-seat Compact Family Van Segment

The Chevrolet Orlando show car, making its world premiere at the recently concluded Paris Motor Show, is clear indication of Chevrolet's plan to enter the seven-seat family van segment with a distinctive sport utility like design, offering adjustable seating and impressive interior space.

The Orlando show car carries Chevrolet's signature design language into a new vehicle segment. It explores the potential of combining the versatility attributes of a sport utility family van and wagon in a single execution.

The Chevrolet Orlando sets a distinctive silhouette, replacing conventional monocoat proportions with a more defined concept between the front and enclosed rear. With flared fenders instead of a flat side body, Chevrolet Orlando has a muscular stance that gives it the appearance of a sport utility vehicle, yet it offers dynamic ride and handling, excellent fuel efficiency and easy entry thanks to its car-based architecture.

Inside, the five-door Orlando is designed to meet the needs of families and those who need plenty of seating capacity with adaptable, theater-style seating to three rows comfortably accommodating up to seven occupants. Whenever load carrying becomes a priority, the spacious cabin can be quickly reconfigured into a large cargo area. A generous 2760 mm wheelbase and wide front and rear tracks provide Chevrolet Orlando with outstanding interior roominess.

Chevrolet's latest generation 2.0-liter turbo diesel, developing 150 hp and 320 Nm of torque, provides a powerful and fuel efficient powertrain.

The Chevrolet Orlando show car hints at another step forward in Chevrolet's product portfolio and plan to offer customers around the globe impressive value in terms of quality, fuel efficiency and comfort.

The New Aveo Hatchback 1.5L

Keyless Entry • Fog Lamps • All-Power Features • Radio with CD & MP3 Player
1.5-Liter Engine • Anti-Lock Braking System • Dual Airbags • Class-Leading Headroom

LIFESTYLE Home & Entertaining

Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan

Contributing Editor Lia S. Bernardo

Do-it-yourself

With Anton Barreto and Marina Lopa

D.I.Y.

BEAUTY rack

Organize your beauty essentials

Beauty racks are a convenient way to store the items that keep us groomed and looking pleasant

IT IS COMMON PRACTICE to have a beauty rack by your bathroom counter—whether placed under the mirror, built on the wall or as an individual furniture accessory placed on the bathroom counter. Beauty racks are a convenient way to organize and access the items that keep us groomed and looking pleasant.

Some organizing tips:

Classify and organize your stash. This way you don't waste time looking for what you need. Designate appropriate areas in the shelf to ensure access to what you need—hair care in one area, cleansers and makeup to another area. Toothbrush and shaving products should be placed in a spot that's also easily reached.

Use clear, upright containers to **hold toothbrushes, combs and hair brushes, makeup brushes, Q-tips and cotton buds.** This will save space in the shelf, aside from looking neat and hygienic and allowing you to find what you need at first glance. Small items like medicine tablets should also be stored in transparent containers.

Maximize space by putting small bottles in front of big and tall ones. Be sure all labels are visible.

Edit your essentials. Pick out those indispensible in your daily routine and give them a place of importance in your beauty rack. Discard what you don't need or those that have expired.

DAILY CROSSWORD

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

					9	2	4	7
	7	8		3			1	
	4		2			6		
		3			4			
	2				8			
4			7	6		3		
8		2			3		6	4
7	5					1	9	
6						5		

Difficulty Level ★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

3	1	5	2	6	9	4	7	8
9	6	7	3	8	4	5	2	1
2	4	8	5	1	7	6	3	9
7	3	6	8	5	1	9	4	2
5	8	9	4	2	6	7	1	3
1	2	4	9	7	3	8	5	6
6	9	1	7	4	5	3	8	7
8	5	3	1	9	2	2	6	4
4	7	2	6	3	8	1	9	5

BEAUTIFUL faces at the exhibit: Cristeeta Yu Santoso and Tisha Cruz Bautista (second from right), Jewelcrew's radiant pearl Baby Cruz, Dimsh Valdez, and Shoperior dynamo Dianne Santoso

PWRC Gen. and Council Director Lolo Casas-Quezon

GIFT GATE and fiancé-royal Virgie Ramos with Raja Laura and Susan Jones

WOMEN of substance: PDI board chair Marixi Prieto and Marixie Balboa, dedicated PWRC Makati branch director

SONJA Ocampo and Annie Barreiro

CAMERA Club members Dr. Gerry Sabado, Atty. Tim Mejia, Atty. Raymond Fortun and Vidal Lim

SOUTHERN belle Jenna Llamas Lopez

HALBY Grace Poe-Llamanzares with Tessa Prieto-Valdes, whose photo was on exhibit, and Malou Escudero of Cirkuito

Charitable ladies pose for noble cause

FORMER Tatler representative Mercedes Teodoro and PCSD director Manuel Morato

SPARK UP THE COLOURFUL SUPER charitable ladies celebrated an exciting evening of photography and charity when the Camera Club of the Philippines (CCP) held Makati for Red, a photo exhibit marking the 88th anniversary of the CCP. The event benefits the Makati branch of the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC).

This six-successful happening, dabbings, was sponsored by Globe Platinum, Sony Ericsson, Volvo, HSBC, Moët & Chandon and Belvedere Vodka, pahinggo. Held at Robinsons Land's Tesoro Tesoro showroom, 41 women posed for CCP members and donated their professional fees to the PNRC, pahinggo.

The awesome seven-some include Montrina Concepcion, Kat Lim, Martina Cojuangco, Abby Jimenez, Mikette Belmonte, Mona Tantoco, Trina Abrahegan, Candy Bravo, Cathy Qu, Lianne Siu, Imelda Bautista, Ruthy Nieto, Kaye Tiliga, Grace Ang, Annette Tirol, Suzanne Celmar, Lisa Araneta-Marcos, Susan Hontiveros, Audrey Packer-Chia, Nannette Medved-Po, Marilen Tiamson and Florence Go.

The best photos were those of Madame Imelda Marcos with her brother Rodang Ilustrisimo, by friend Marilou Mayor Fredericks and Kaye Tiliga and their family by Patrick Uy, and Cindy Tang and her family, by Ruffy Santos. All the photographs were printed by Canon, natch.

The affair's highlight was the turnover of a P800,000 check to PNRC Makati branch director, multi-talented version of substance—Marivic Balboa, no less, dahlings. The total donation amounted to P1 million.

"I thank the organizers, sponsors and members of the CCP who organized this fantastic event for the Red Cross Rizal Chapter, Makati branch, especially during difficult times like these, and making the continued existence of the Red Cross a viable proposition," said a vivacious Marivic B.

The Red Cross Makati City branch was launched a year ago. It hopes to get the blood type of every Makati resident in the future.

A PAINTING of Ma Bear in Hermosipan, by an unknown artist (early 1900s)

Laya Hall opens

The National Gallery of Art at the old Congress Building on 5 Bonifacio Drive, was abuzz during the glitzy opening of the Mideo and Ann C. Laya Hall, a gift of the culture-and arts-oriented Laya children: Jimmy Laya and sisters Eleanor de Airoldi, Susan Rhyne and Trina Armstrong, who both joined in the festivities.

I learned that "the elder Layas were both educators and senior officials in the Department of Education. Anna C. Laya was a prolific writer and his novel, 'His Native Soil,' won the Commonwealth Literary Award.

During the brief program in the elegant museum, hilling director Cora Alonso fondly announced the dedication of the hall. Next was the eldest child of the couple, magistrados, former public official and diehard Filipinianas scholar, Jimmy, who welcomed the 300 of Cesare Moreilla's awesome-dreadfulness pahinggo.

An exhibition hall in the National Museum of the Philippines is an appropriate way to remember educators, for it is the task of museums to educate. It is through this hall that we can hope Nancy and Tessy continue to teach and show works and drawings that touch the lives of young Filipinos and our relatives who now live abroad."

Adorable Edna Tesoro-Domingo represents native Ivatan Sarwel, her sister Isabel Fandoy and well-known domestic-ologist, Isa Santos, were also visible, dahlings.

One of my close friends who loves art and hangs out in museums and art galleries always has a thing or two to say about something and talking art is.

One of her usual witty remarks was at this opening.

"You know, Maurice, it's really easy to overpaint a modern painting. It's actually the one you just can't make out what it's all about. At least here, it's old and simple and so recognizable. Don't you agree?"I agree, dahlings.

With all the priceless paintings on exhibit, the luxurious, I would say, judging from the favorable comments, were the Amorsolos. In fact several and a rare painting of Malate Church, eye-catching shows of three, Mariculapas' opulent works of Antipolo Mojeppuan Ho and Botanik. "Binondo Street Scene" by Miguel Galvez and Hh Ocampo's "Gumayaw."

Hip, hoo's that for priceless namedropping, gadangan.

The 58 paintings can be viewed until Dec. 31 at Laya Hall in the exhibit "Art in Delivery Lives, 1930s to 1970s."

Beverly Hills 6750's 2nd year

Beverly Hills 6750 Multi-Specialty Aesthetic Institute turned two, dahlings, with a terrific anniversary bash, and an exclusive luncheon at its headquarters on Ayala Avenue, Makati.

It held a "Beauty day" and offered 50 lucky clients dazzling services on early birds.

Boom, E-Max Skin Tightening, Intense Pulse Light, diamond peel and facial hydrogyan rejuvenation were up for grabs, pahinggo. As early as 5 a.m., the five Thermage skin tightening treatment packages, had already been taken, would you believe?

And for the rest chosen 228 lunch beauty partners, we select gal Enid is Prime! Cebu-based pyramid is terrific beauty and pantry desserts plus Bowling Shirt & Chandon, Belvedere Vodka and Hennessey Cognac.

CLOSE pals Sonia Mathay, Dr. Tayet Pascual, Madam Imelda Marcos (one of my favorite photo-exhibit models), Princess Ira Furstenberg and Garlan Reyes

MERCEDES Benz but deal: Felix Angwin with wife Grace

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH
Maurice Arcache
Photos by Alex Von Wiggen using PWRC Photo Unit

STYLISH pair Chiara Garcia and Nancy Castiglione

Ain't that to-die-for, dahlings?

As if that was not enough, 041 6750 rubbed off super hot prizes and VIP bags from the Chocolate Clothing Company, Gucci, BTC, the Fairmont and the Philippine Tatler. There was also an exclusive 041 6750 Optometrics special treat.

"Beverly Hills 6750 has always prided itself in never cutting corners in terms of client care and satisfaction. On this second year, the pursuit for excellence in the beauty business does not falter a bit, but rather it continues to reach higher heights," said 041 6750's marketing manager, statuesque beauty Elsara Bautista, no less.

FCCP bazaar

Christmas is just around the corner and it's no wonder that bazaars are sprouting all over town, dahlings. Some are a must-go-to like what the friends of the Carmel Convent of the Philippines (FCCP) will hold to pre-Christmas bazaar on Dec. 25, at the Hotel Intercontinental, Makati, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

Proceeds of the Bazaar are for the scholarships of poor but talented students in the visual and performing arts, plus tons of other projects, pahinggo.

In charge of this year's bazaar are director Hilmi Fabella and bazaar chairperson Karen Blanchard and their committee members.

Modish interior designer and multi-faceted businessman, president Jerry Contreras is asking "dear members and friends to support the bazaar for the benefit of its various beneficiaries."

Check out, dahlings, the great buys which are easy on your wallet.

SOLAIRE hostess who's Kim, Wilson Tieng of Solar Entertainment, Mia Ong, Boss Evangelista, Cong. Annie Susano, Jams Ticzon and Lim Ong

SILVER, TV 46's GTM managing director Eduardo Santos, general manager Susana Hube Lopez and medical director Dr. Alex Montelaque (right) flank gorgeous Isabelle Daza and her mom, beauty queen Gloria Diaz, the boss of BM 6750.

FHM, TM, 51 Book chairman Jimmy Laya welcomes invitees, including (L-R) Terence Libora, toasted and to Sunday, Sunti Dantes, Lee Garcia, Bettina Olmeda, Grace Tiongco, Mimi Fabrero, Baby Arnaiz and Myrna Barrameda

FCCP COMMITTEE. Seated (L-R): FCCP Bazaar director Mimi Valeriano, chairperson Karen Blanchard. FCCP president Gerry Contreras, vice-presidents Leny Hahn and Thelma Gana. Standing (L-R): members Rosie Rodrigo, Mabel Abaya, Mimi Basilio, Marilen Atkinson, Baby De Jesus, Gloria Salonga, Nuna Lozano, Sol Tan-Gunio and Nikki Valeriano

80th anniversary Ferragamo show to benefit Red Cross

ICONIC ITALIAN FASHION brand Salvatore Ferragamo marks its 80th anniversary today by presenting its Fall-Winter collection.

Ferro Specialties, Inc. is presenting the collection with Citibank today. Ferragamo's regional chief executive officer and director Paul Cadman and Christine Fedich are guests.

Ferragamo, Citibank and Ferro Specialties, Inc. are joining forces to assist the Philippine National Red Cross.

Proceeds of the Autumn-Winter 2008 Collection shoes as the Peninsula Manila Signature Stellisane weight at 0.50 will go to PNRC.

The Ferragamo name has been associated with movie glamour since the early '20s, the young Italian shoemaker migrated to California, making outside and boots for epic and western movies in the Hollywood studios. He soon became famous as the "Shoemaker to the Stars."

Even after his death in the '60s, his company continued to dominate fashion.

The new collection is luxury concealed in a code of invisible details in shoes, bags, ties and accessories.

The brand has also launched its first watch collection, Timepieces.

The PNRC is the country's leading organization in providing safe and adequate blood supply, especially for indigent Filipinos.

Throughout the year, PNRC has to be prepared for any disaster such as dengue, which requires platelet concentrate and fresh frozen plasma, components of blood which are processed through a machine called refrigerated centrifuge.

Through a ban the equipment, it has to upgrade them to meet the global blood banking standards to produce quality blood products.

GIOVANNA Ferragamo

FERRUCCIO Ferragamo

Rene Bond, chair of the Blood Services Program of the Red Cross, has asked the help of Sally Tanseco, HR president, for a new refrigerated centrifuge.

The machine separates whole blood into different blood components (packed red blood cell, platelets and plasma) in a controlled temperature environment. The machine functions by rotating to a specific speed, thus, the different blood components separate due to their difference in density.

Through a new machine, three patients can benefit from a single blood donation. This means more blood to aid more Filipinos, especially the poor.

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Tools for rent

HANDYMAN DO IT CENTER at Robinsons Forum in Pioneer, Mandaluyong, has launched Handyman Tools for Rent.

A first in the Philippines, the program has tools for rent for three days to one week.

Experienced store representatives are around to answer questions on the proper use of equipment, to give tips on planning simple repair or heavy renovation.

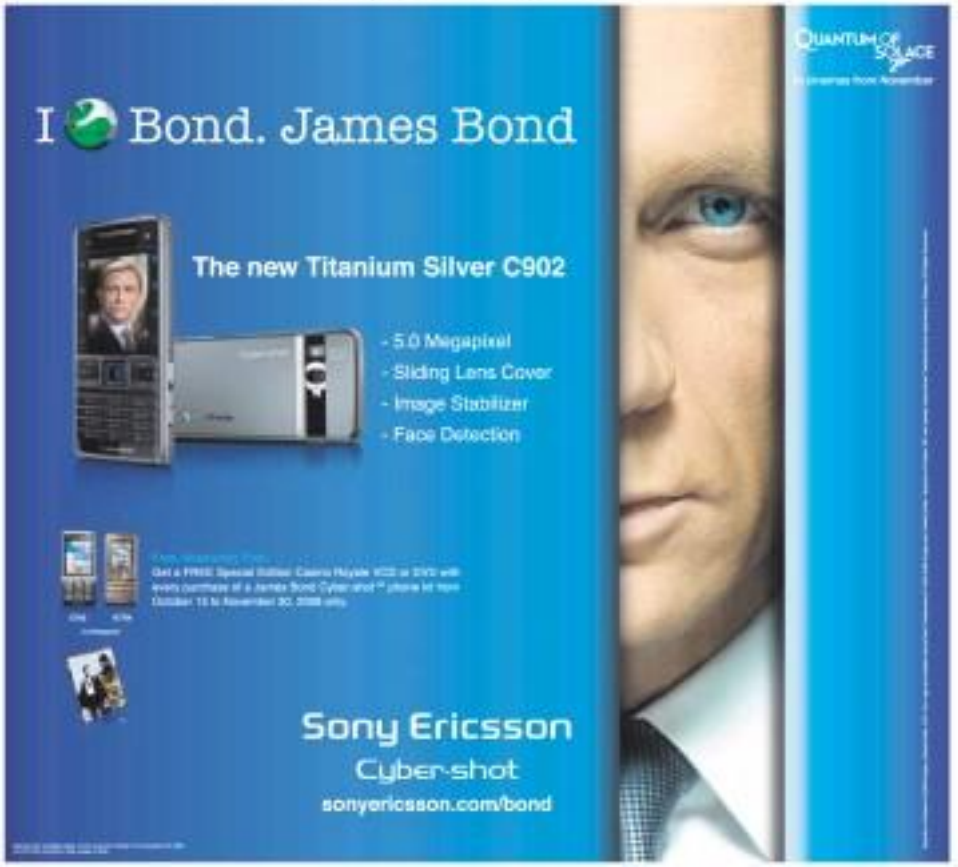
The items for rent include power tools, ladders, welding machines, air compressors, gardening tools, evaporative coolers, excavation hammers, portable pumps, submersible pumps, work lights, push carts, scaffoldings and generators.

Customers will pay additional security deposit (refundable), personal record fee, and they are assured the tools and equipment are in top condition.

There are the Black & Decker electric drills (P300 is rent for three days or P500 a week); Hitachi Ladder (P500/three days or P750/week); Hipot Generator (P1,800/three days) and (P9,900/week); 110P Air Compressor (P1,800/three days or P2,700/a week); Hitachi Planer (P1,000/three days or P1,500 /week); Bosch Circular Saw (P600/ three days or P750/week).

ELECTRIC drills and renovation hammers for rent

Call 6672000, 6671001, 687-2002 or visit www.handyman.com.ph.



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Chairs, beds for kids, pets

"BABY Cocoon Chair," by Ann Fanmoon

THE BATON OF THE CONductor went down and the auctioneer's gavel up during the 15-minute intermission of "Lavo! Child's Play!"—the concert at Rockwell Tent last Friday featuring the Philippine Youth Symphonic Band's (PYSB) pop interpretations of traditional Filipino children's songs.

An auction of collectible children's and pet furniture donated by some of the country's leading designers went on the block at 15 percent below their regular prices.

Children's furniture included toy Alsatian's whimsical children's stools inspired by the floral stamps of French florist Christian Tortu; Ann Fanmoon's baby version of the "Cocoon Chair"; Maja Ohmann-Co's lounger in navy, upholstered in animal print.

Pet pet lovers, Antoni Mendoza donated a stainless steel-and-leather pet bed; Mikel Bansal a fully upholstered dog bed complete with fluffy pillows; and Joey Yapangco a versatile pillow bed-cum-blanket which was also for resting pet toys.

Frances de los Reyes' pet chaise featured rolled arms and a dramatic curved back, while Sonia Santiago-Olivares' domed dog-pet bed could be rolled down for convenience.

This was the second year the Young Musicians Development Organization (YMDO) had conducted an auction for young musicians to realize their potentials through summer training camps and a stint with the PYSB.

"The response from our designer friends has been overwhelming," said Ohmann-Co, executive director of the YMDO board of trustees. "We have pledges for the next five years! Truly heartwarming."

Irene M. Arsenio, board chair, thanked the designers for making the concert a "mixed-media event," adding: "All those with creative minds abound in generosity. These wonderful designers have taken the

HEROIC/D4

"CHILD'S Play!... Child's Pray!" by Maja Ohmann-Co

"PILLOWPLEASE!," by Joey Yapangco

DAYNEST garden blends Zen elements like bonsai, Buddha statues, fountain and koi pond with tropical trees and foliage.

THE DOOR

ANOTHER entrancing door find by Monica

It's in the doors

INTRIGATE main door that opens to floor area/floor-to-ceiling glass, white walls, welcomes the visitor to the six-foot living room. Daniel's sculpture of a reclining woman is known as Amore Lux.

By Joy Rojas
Contributor
Photos by Boboi Mora

COLLECTORS KNOW HOW to be a matter of moral, but who knew that sculptor Daniel de la Cruz (who just had his sold-out show of graceful female figures called "Hiraya" at Ayala Museum) was a green thumb as well?

It was Daniel who was responsible for the lush, Asian-inspired landscaping of his home. He's recently renovated home in Mandaluyong, still a soothing sight for those who live here, and the perfect complement to the architecture: minimalist w/ this Mill-ay at property.

The sparkling new look is courtesy of the sculptor's wife Monica, an interior designer and the one behind Ayala Avenue's festive Christmas trimmings for the last six years. Though more inclined to inexpensive, homey with a contemporary structure feel, Monica (who worked with architect Michelle Legarda on this project) admits her exposure to the clean, modernized look of her/her architect Lot Calma has a big influence on her style.

Daniel was an inspiration for the three-level house which was originally shaped like a cubana of Balinese resorts.

"I actually had no idea what the house would look like until we bought the main door," says Monica, who bought her doors from home accessories shops. "But after we got it, we wanted to build around it."

Stark white walls, "glass curtains" (her description of larger-than-life windows), a wide open floor plan, and low key furnishings made perfect sense in a home whose luminously natural resources don't like as works of art.

That the couple's three kids finally have rooms of their own is definitely a big deal. Free to decorate their own private spaces, the two boys and girl (who used to sleep in the same bedroom) jumped at the chance of showing off their true colors—in more ways than one.

Hildur boy (and La Salle) Eduardo chose his school color, green, while Danielle opted for a room bathed in white and orange. Youngest boy Diego was "happy with any color, as I picked blue," says the mom with a smile.

Daniel and Monica stay in rooms that open to an Asian-themed sanctuary to brilliant red. A sleek and spacious bathroom with massage tubs and windmill ("and all my cabinets," adds Monica with a laugh) is steps across the cozy master suite, which boasts, among other knickknacks, a huge portrait of the lady of the house, a painting done by Vietnam.

> 'I had no idea what the house would look like until we bought the main door'

It's all part of the plan, says Monica when asked why she assigned the couple's bedroom to the first floor. "When Daniel and I grow old, we don't have to climb the stairs."

The room is also strategically located. "Do you hear this?" says Monica of their main door's creaking hinges. "This will let me know when's coming in and out of the house!"

Complete as it appears, the house remains a work in progress. There's enough space on the second level for another bedroom, says Monica, and Daniel promised to sculpt a bannister on their front staircase.

"And I can always paint the white walls and bar colors," she notes, "like purple, maroon, or orange, if I wanted a Rococo look. It could be anything."

We can't wait when that happens.

VIEW of the living room from the second floor

TOP Pan Aykon stands pretty on the sofa in the living room whose white walls. Knickknacks with clear lines make an Art Deco-ish painting and throw pillows from Old Asia stand out. The staircase has yet to have a bannister.

= 14

"TEA for Two," by Ivy Almario

"SOFA," by Ramon de los Reyes

Chairs, beds . . .

From page D3

advocacy of the young Filipino musicians on stage."

Proceeds from the auction will help nurture another Hubbi Villanueva, an 18-year-old French-horn player and PYSB alumnus who went on to perform with the Asian Youth Orchestra in concerts around Asia that summer. He played with the PYSB in "Liszt Child's Play."

Hosted by anchor Vicky Morales, the concert also featured the debut of vocalist Shy Reyes.

Dalahoro's songs such as the playful "Hihihihi," the spirited "Lasso-lasso Hirna," and the jaunty "Isinggong-nging Pakinang" were rearranged in genres familiar to the young—pop, rock, jazz, reggae.

PYSB released a four-track CD sampler containing some of the highlights of the concert. The full 14-track CD would be recorded live in a performance at the Cultural Center of the Philippines in October next year.

Since the beginning, the PYSB has taken interest in young (7 years old and up) talented from through an annual summer music camps. The intensive five-to camp holds classes in sight reading, musicianship, solo instrument and ensemble play.

PYSB's goal is to inspire young musicians and open opportunities for their career to go in full bloom.

"SHAVE Dog Bed," by Mike Ward

"PET COMBA," by Arnie Mendoza

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LIFESTYLE Parenting

We have no cut-off date to let go

By Cynthia Rezon
Contributor

IT IS ONLY TIME LIFE AFFORDS SO greater responsibility, so greater privilege than the raising of the next generation.

Are we equipped to assume such an awesome task? Where do we get the tools?

Expert advice on parenting is today just a click away. Humorous websites teach us how to use it as mom and dads.

Today's unborn baby "listens" to Mozart and Bach. We only sang lullabies. I wonder how those of us who became parents before the cyber age ever functioned. Were our babies deprived?

In my day, the "in" thing was "Baby and Child Care" by Dr. Benjamin Spock, which existed in every book except the Bible.

Spock had the answers even before we could ask the questions. He paced the floor with us during a colic, rare or through the mumps and measles; talked to us about diaper rash, hiccups and burping.

Is Dr. Spock irrelevant today? I hope not. For us he was always right on target. I learned that a little whip of wet cotton on baby's forehead did not take away hiccups; that babies seem to be buoyed during mid-ether a feeding; that boys tend to pee while being changed (at least, how to duck!), and that it is all right to leave a night light on if a child is afraid of the dark (and they seldom are, unless someone puts the notion in their tiny heads).

These Spock babies are parents today. Some are new grandparents. I think they turned out pretty good.

In my mind, parenting is a contract without a termination date. It is a forever thing. Much to our children's dismay, that's just the way it is.

For a mother it starts with morning sickness and is signed, sealed and delivered with labor pain.

Erma Bombeck said: "Giving birth is little more than a bit of molecular reconstruction grinding passage of a child. Then, a mother is born."

The day a man becomes a father the moment he sees his bundle of joy through the nursery window. Another theory says parenting starts when you hear that high-pitched shrieking until coming from a silent, cool-faced creature who loudly regrets having left the warmth of its mother's womb. (Hey wise, that baby!)

Nonstop learning

No matter how it begins, parenting is nonstop learning. Even after your children are past their teens, you learn. When they have children of their own, you still learn. As you see the features feel soft and cuddly. Very often, they are piercing arrows aimed at the heart.

When does a child become an adult? Dr. Spock did not have a cut-off date for mothers to let go, for apron strings to be severed. Me didn't mind them to school until they were potty trained and could tie their own shoelaces. And even today we don't let go until...?

• Through the years, I have discovered that age does not determine the maturity of your son or daughter. Some children are born with old souls. Others just never grow up.

• From my father, I learned that discipline is essential in raising a family. Children need structure in their lives. Borders need to be set and recognized. They need make friends with the word "No."

• Remember that "discipline does not break a child's spirit half as often as the lack of it breaks a parent's heart."

• Parents are far from infallible. Some of us miss it, big time. Trying to make up for our failures, we overcompensate. Guilt often makes us overindulgent. We buy whatever the children want just to make them happy. After all, we owe them. What a tragic mistake! It is better to own up and ask them for forgiveness. There is nothing wrong with that.

• In whatever age, our children need to be nurtured and encouraged. I am still hearing that parents must be affirmers, not evaluators, no matter how old their children are. (By the way, do our children know that we need encouragement as well?)

• Children have a tendency to be too protective. Like forcing him to fight to keep our chicks under wing, learned we should allow them to fly, to run and maybe fall, to be bruised and sore defeat. There is much to gain when your face is in the dirt. (Okay, you may wipe their bloody noses while you wipe away your tears.)

• Are you unable to provide your children with the luxuries of life? It is not the end of the world. Watch a sunset together. Run in the rain with them. Stay up and wait for the sunrise. With all their millions, many rich folks miss these precious moments.

There is a proverb that says: If you want your children to earn one cent, spend twice as much time with them and half as much money. Think about it.

Affirmation of parent

• One of life's biggest rewards is to hear your child admonishing his kids and quoting you verbatim with the words and

WE HAVE (1)

To hear your child admonishing his kids with the words and values he once rebelled against is affirmation at its best. For a parent, it is like winning an Oscar

Tips to make appetizing 'baon'

By Norma Dikitanan
Contributor

ALL THROUGH MY CHILDREN'S elementary and high-school years, they always insisted on bringing their own snack and lunch to school.

While it took extra effort to prepare their lunch boxes every school day, I never complained. For me it was quite an honor. It meant they liked my cooking. Better than anything, they could buy no-tho-school canteens.

Not that their baon would always be gourmet meals. Often, it would be simple food but cooked lavishly. If it was pizza, for instance, it would be loaded with cheese and mushrooms (their favorite toppings).

If it was chocolate-chip cookies, doesn't be enough chocolate chips in each cookie to give them a chip in every bite. As my eldest daughters once said to explain my generosity with the ingredients, "Because Mom doesn't have to make a profit."

At times, though, my kids' baon would simply be whatever was left over from previous night's dinner: adobo, spaghetti, pancit or their favorite chicken teriyaki.

Thus, when cooking dinner, I'd factor this in and double the batch to make sure there'd enough for the kids' lunch the next day.

USE COOKIE cutters to perk up your kid's lunch.

To save time, we'd pack their lunch boxes as soon as dinner was over. Keep it in the fridge, and just reheat early the next day.

One good thing about packing your kids' baon is you can be sure that they'll eat is wholesome and hygienically prepared. And if they helped pack the lunch themselves, the kids have more incentive to eat it than they do to buy at the school canteen.

You don't have to be a gourmet cook to make delectable baon for your kids. Preparing kids' baon can actually be easy—and fun.

The important thing is to consider your kids' food preferences and to work around that. Remember, too, that the lunch break in most schools is only around 30 minutes or so here.

Thus, whatever you prepare should be easy and convenient to eat. The pencilshot may soup that might spill, dishes that could spoil and those too messy to eat.

Cheese pimiento and raisin sandwich

Some helpful tips

- Invest in handy, single-serving ovenproof and microwavable dishes. There are small aluminum containers, for instance, that are just the right size for a serving of pasta. However, make sure you don't put aluminum ware in the microwave. For reheating food in aluminum containers, use a regular oven or a turbo broiler.
- To make sandwiches more appealing, cut them into fancy shapes using cookie cutters.
- Avoid packing dishes with too much sauce as this could spill. Likewise with cereal.
- Use reusable containers and utensils for environmental reasons. Remember, too, that the lunch break in most schools is only around 30 minutes or so here.
- Every now and then, surprise your kid with a special treat such as sliced apples or homemade cookies.

Cheese pimiento and raisin sandwich

2 c grated cheddar cheese
½ c mellomel butter
½ c chopped pimiento (canned)
1-2 tbsp chopped raisins
1 tbsp sugar
1 loaf sandwich bread

Mix cheese, butter, pimiento and raisins in a large bowl. Sprinkle sugar and blend well.

Using a cookie cutter, cut bread into desired shapes and sizes. Spread cheese mixture into half of the shaped bread and top each with similar size shaped bread (as in a sandwich).

Wrap in foil or waxed paper and pack in lunch boxes.

'Baon' tips

- When using cookie cutter, press the cutter firmly into the bread so that the shape takes hold. Use a knife or spatula to trim away the edges of the bread.
- You can use bread crusts and the trimmed parts to make bread pudding or to make bread crumbs.
- For added visual appeal, pack the wrapped sandwiches in decorative plastic sandwich bags.
- If you don't have decorative plastic sandwich bags, you can ask your children to have their favorite figures on the plastic bags themselves using crayons or colored markers (you can also join your children in drawing the figures).

The author is a mother of two girls.

CLEAN pumpkin loot bag with assorted candies

TWIRLY Pops (above) and colorful Spiral Pops (below) trick-or-treat goodies

HOUTHWEIRING chocolate Boobear pack of 4 bears with 8 no-cookie doll

Delightful Halloween goodies

IT'S AN OVERLOAD OF GOODIES FOR trick-or-treat fun at the SM Ranch Exchange.

Pumpkin loot bags are packed with Flexy candy straws, Trolli sugar-coated Skidwrinkles and Sour Gerbo straws, bonbon chocolates, mini Rotikids and Sweet Sister toffees.

Kids will be in a Halloween mood with color and spiral twirly pops, while special Rotikids or Bonbon chocolate packs come with cute voodoo dolls for that fright night chill.

Berries in a cloud: Fun recipe to do with your kid

HERE'S A RECIPE YOU AND YOUR CHILD can do together. It's a mother's recipe, good if you're trying your hand in the kitchen for the first time. It's very easy and fun. Or even kitchen veterans may want to try this one, because it's wholesome and delicious.

Berries in a cloud

1 c all-purpose cream, well-chilled
½ c powdered sugar
½ kilo fresh strawberries (if not available, use canned)
1-2 large ripe bananas
Chocolate syrup

Several hours or a day before preparation.

Kid's part: Remind mom to chill the all-purpose cream in the refrigerator at least eight hours or overnight before you're scheduled to do this recipe. Chill also the chocolate syrup.

Mom and kid: Clean strawberries very well, removing the stem ends where dirt and soil may gather. Store strawberries in refrigerator, if using bananas, store these also in refrigerator.

Day of preparation

Mom's part: Whip cream in an electric mixer at low speed. Gradually add sugar then increase mixer speed to medium or high. Continue whipping until stubborn peaks form.

Kid's part: Spoon the whipped cream into four to six individual ice cream cups or bowls.

Mom's part: Slice the strawberries into halves. If using bananas, slice them into rounds.

Kid's part: Arrange strawberries or bananas on top of the whipped cream. Drizzle with chocolate syrup.

Tip

If desired, you can use a combination of strawberries and bananas to top the cream.

Norma Chili-Ramos, Contributor

Weekend escape ideas for families

YOU'VE RUN OUT OF IDEAS where to bring your little tyke this weekend for a different treat? Better think them kid-friendly destinations for fun and lots of fun and learning as well. Just don't forget to grab your camera to capture every bit of excitement in your child's face. It's worth it.

- **Enchanted Kingdom.** Star City's most talked-about attraction, Snow World allows young and old alike to experience real snow in this mega-sized concavity. Yes, the local winter wonderland allows visitors to abandon dream vacations to snow-clad environments like Alaska or Antarctica.

The temperature inside is -15°C. There are a giant ice slide, especially for tongues in Asia, and a display of ice-produce ice carvings. Visitors are provided thick jackets and gloves before they enter inside.

Snow World is in Star City, CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay. Open Monday-Thursday, 4 p.m.-12 midnight, and Friday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Call 8334483.

The metro remains a haven of alternative tours and treats for parents and kids

Entrance fee: P150 per person. Kids below 3 years old are not allowed. Star City entrance fee is P50.

- **Bone Island Museum.** Life-size dinosaurs (think T-rex and triceratops) that have lifelike appearances as they are equipped with the state-of-the-art technology called "animatronics." It makes the monsters move, stare at you, breathe and fight. Dino sounds were as real as well.

Dino Island is also in Star City, CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard in Pasay City.

Entrance fee: P100 per person with P60 entrance fee for Star City.

- **DLF Aerospace Museum.** Philippine Air Force's museum allows a tour of Philippine aviation history, aerospace science and technology. Visitors will get to know the country's heroes in air defense during World War II and the succeeding internal conflicts.

The first floor has interactive displays of modern aerospace science, while the second floor houses the Air Force heritage and the history of aviation. The third floor has a deck which can be accessed by the public for woodland views of the air base and its surroundings.

Aerospace Museum is at the Villamor Air Base complex, adjacent to the DLF-Ayala Hub where 10 kinds of military aircraft had been permanently roosted for public viewing.

Entrance fee: P20.

- **Antipolo Pilgrimage.** Home of Our Lady of Peace and Good Travel, the place is the perfect destination for families who want to have a religious experience. Antipolo is also known for its delicacies, such as suman and other native delicacies.

STAR City's Dino Island Museum

The Antipolo Pilgrimage is at Sumulong Highway, Antipolo City. Visitors can ride a jeepney from Cubao, Quezon City, or Marikina City.

- **Ocean Adventure.** Ocean Adventure is a marine life park and amphitheater located within the Subic Bay Freeport Zone. It is home to a wide variety of marine animals, including sea lions, dolphins, penguins, and exotic birds.

Ocean Adventure is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is P500 for adults and P300 for children. Visitors can also participate in various activities, such as swimming with dolphins, feeding sea lions, and watching a variety of shows.

- **Manila Ocean Park.** Manila Ocean Park is a marine life park and aquarium located in the heart of Manila. It is home to a wide variety of marine animals, including sharks, rays, and tropical fish.

Manila Ocean Park is open daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission is P500 for adults and P300 for children. Visitors can also participate in various activities, such as swimming with dolphins, feeding sea lions, and watching a variety of shows.

- **Tagaytay Highlands.** Tagaytay Highlands is a mountain resort located in Tagaytay City. It is known for its cool climate, scenic views, and various outdoor activities.

Tagaytay Highlands is open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is P500 for adults and P300 for children. Visitors can also participate in various activities, such as hiking, biking, and zip-lining.

- **Taal Volcano.** Taal Volcano is an active volcano located in Batangas. It is known for its beautiful crater lake and its surrounding landscape.

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How to control your maternal paranoia

You're not alone

By Mavi Fojas de Ocampo
Contributor

I BET MOST MOMS WOULD AGREE that they never learned to stop as much as they had children.

And who could blame us? All of a sudden we are responsible for a helpless little being. We worry that they'll catch a cold, fall off the bed, or get scratched by the family cat. When they are toddlers, we fear that they'll electrocute, fall and bump their head—or that they'll choke while eating lunch candy. When they're in school, we have nightmares about them getting kidnapped.

In their teens, we pray they'll be safe when they are out with friends, reminding them to stay away from cigarettes, drugs and liquor—premarital sex. We also say a novena so that they won't drink, drive and get into a car accident.

We, you see, are nuts alone. Most, if not all, moms get paranoid about the safety and well-being of their kids. Listen to their fears and anxieties (and be as sure to know some moms are even more paranoid than you).

R. C., mom of three beautiful girls (ages 12, 10 and 8): "I'm afraid they'd get into accident and worry knots. Siyempre, three girls 'yon!"

S. R., mom of precocious toddler (age 3): "My fear is that she will get kidnapped. And that the kidnappers will starve and hurt her."

T. E. mom of four and grandmother to triplet (grandkids ages 12, 11, 10; 9, 8, 7; 5, 4): "I'm afraid my kids and grandkids will get into a car accident, have fights or rumbles, or chicken. I also fear they'll have severe asthma attacks or allergies, get pregnant early or have abnormal delivery or childbirth."

C. DG., mom of a little boy and girl (ages 7 and 5): "I fear that my kids will lose their self-esteem and confidence over some minor incident."

G. A., mom of one little boy (age 5): "I worry that when my son gets older, he's going to want to spend less time with the family, especially with me."

R.C., mother to a 20-something daughter (age is 23): "When she was little, I was afraid every time she ran up and down the stairs. When she grew up, I worried whenever she was out at night."

A. C., mom of two boys (ages 16 and 14): "I fear that someone will break their spirit."

Symptoms to watch out for:

- Restlessness or feeling keyed up or on edge
- Being easily fatigued
- Difficulty concentrating or mind going blank
- Irritability
- Muscle tension
- Sleep disturbance

It is also important that medical conditions (e.g. hyperthyroidism) have been ruled out.

How do you treat this disorder?

"The most effective treatment is probably one that combines psychotherapeutic, pharmacotherapeutic and supportive approaches," Salagan says. "You allow patients with this condition seek out a peer and practitioner or an internist for help with the physical symptoms. The crux of the matter is recognition of the symptoms and getting the appropriate intervention soonest. Unchecked, the condition may progress to a major depressive episode."

For more information on Generalized Anxiety Disorder, you may consult Dr. Isidro Lloyd Reyes-Salagan at The Medical City (TMC) by calling 635-6700. Visit www.mdcnow.com.

Managing fears

How moms manage their anxiety through coping mechanisms. Here's how they do it:

"Through prayers. I just ask God to protect her at all times."

"I dialogue with my kids and tell them to choose their battles wisely. I remind them about disciplining right from wrong and to remember their upbringing. I also warn that at the end of the day, if they get into trouble, I will be there to help!"

"I cope with my fears by thinking positive thoughts about the whole family's health. I believe this constantly sends positive vibes and actually keeps us healthy and happy."

"I keep in touch with them when they are out by sending and calling. I pray that they are okay when they do not answer."

"As parents we try our best to build their strength of character over the years and not to deprive them too much."

"I give her my 'mom' advice once and then step out-of-sight."

"I just try not to think about it!"

"I give them some assistance like sports to keep them away from drugs. I also enrolled my kids in martial arts, so I know that they can defend themselves."

Anxiety is ok

Dr. Dolce Llave Reyes-Salagan, head of the Section of Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry at The Medical City says, "Worrying about your children's safety, especially if you are a mother, is commonplace. Here as if you get the cues from our present environment where threats to their safety and well-being abound. In Psychiatry, we talk about these experiences as anxieties and fears."

But what is the difference between anxiety and fear? And when do these become disparaging?

According to Dr. Salagan, everyone experiences anxiety. It is an unpleasant, diffused, vague sense of apprehension often accompanied by other symptoms such as headaches, palpitations, lightness of the chest, mild stomach discomfort and restlessness sometimes characterized by the inability to wind or sit for long. These symptoms of anxiety vary from one person to another.

At its normal level, anxiety is a natural and adaptive reaction with lifesaving qualities because it senses the body of **threats, pain, danger or damage.** It does not as an alert signal allowing the person to escape the threat or lessen its consequences. Anxiety is a response to a threat that is unknown, internal, vague or conflictual.

While fear is also an alert signal, it is a response to a known, definite, external or non-conflictual threat.

A response to anxiety is limitless or **minds, while symptoms often to millions.**

Again, anxiety in normal since it allows one to prevent the menace and its cons. To illustrate through concrete examples, Salagan explains that **mothers used all those threats** through preventive measures, like avoiding their pupus or bodyguards to accompany children in school, or personally preparing their meals.

Pathologic

When does anxiety become pathologic?

Generalized Anxiety Disorder is characterized by a pattern of frequent, persistent worry and anxiety that is excessive and difficult to control. Symptoms occur more often than not for six months, and require social, occupational, psychological and other areas of functioning, or distress.

The author is a mother of three, ages 12 to eight.

We have no cut-off date to let go

From page E1

values he once rebelled against. It is affirmation at its best. Be a parent, it is like winning an Oscar.

- In time you will realize that the roles of parents and children are reversed. The child becomes the parent and the parent becomes the child. The child is now the teacher. Amazing! Don't fight it. It happens. Relax and enjoy it. It is borne time.
- When your children have babies you cheer them on even from the sidelines. If you could, you would jump into the ring for them. Their pain becomes your pain. Overnight, even the years-long label, get unreasonably angry when their child is offended.
- The reverse is not necessarily so. Youth is often thoughtless. Don't take it to heart. Live with it. It is not their fault. They are busy doing 'life.'
- When I was young, the holidays meant singing, eating and celebrating as a family. There was never a question of who would come for Noche Buena. It was the time when I had my own children. The rest all fit up, the arcana of choices and fears on Christmas Eve unraveled into the family was yet another making merry.

How is it at your house today? Do you still sing Christmas songs by the tree? Do you still open presents together? Or have your children and their families gone their separate ways? Don't tell. And please don't send. Of course it would be just wonderful if nothing had changed.

But remember, they learned about Christmas traditions from you. The next generation is off to a good start, building memories of their own. Yun naman dinevotell.

The author is a mother of six, a grandmother of 10, and a great grandma of three children.

Living Life Fearlessly with LAKAS LOOB

How do these extraordinary women live life to the fullest?

Dina Bonnevie
Actress/Beauty Woman

She personifies the beauty and brains ideal, but she has more than good genes to thank for it. "I've always had healthy-eating habits, including drinking Anlene milk regularly. This has helped my body fit and strong to be able to stay at top of my showbiz and corporate careers."

Pinky Marquez
Pioneer Professional Singer/Stylist

Balancing a singing career with the demands of theater roles requires Pinky to be tireless. And yet she can still take on an additional role - that of being a teacher of theater arts to kids. "I realized that I am able to cope with the rigorous schedules of acting, singing and theater performing because I drink Anlene milk consistently to strengthen my bones."

Pilar Caroden
Asian Queen of Song

Her style of singing is her ultimate fitness regimen, coupled with a regular habit of drinking Anlene milk. "More than ever, I am aware these days that if I didn't take strong bones, I would not be able to continue singing and performing those back-breaking bends that is distinctly Pilar."

Maxene Jones
Beauty Queen/Cancer Survivor

Miss Republic of the Philippines, Golf Enthusiast, Cancer Survivor. "I go to the driving range once a week and play golf once every 2 weeks. I try to exercise regularly, drink Anlene milk and limit my food intake."

FIGHT OSTEOPOROSIS
Anlene

Lakas Loob, Lakas Buto

Think your bones are strong? Think again. Bones have 3 layers. A strong outer layer and a weaker inner layer which is more prone to breaking from the inside. Anlene 2 more formula, Nano Calcium is 100x smaller than normal calcium. It delivers essential bone strengthening nutrients in the inner core of the bone. Anlene with Nano Calcium + Lakas Loob ng Buto Lalaas sa Osteoporosis.

Fab, fun looks for minors

Robinsons department store holds kids' fair this October

ROBINSONS DEPARTMENT Store's Kids' Fair is going on this October. Enjoy up to 50-percent off on select items at the children's department.

Check out these fashion ideas for your princes and princesses.

Little gentlemen can look preppy in casual and kid-friendly ensembles. Let him have fun by mixing patterns and primary colors, striped or plaid with plains. Or he can look edgy in comfortable denims and by layering a casual tee-shirt with a hip and trendy jacket.

Fashion for fashion-forward girls is becoming fresher and more fun. Think things, leggings, skinny little jeans and cool casual shoes, patterns and bright colors.

Capri length leggings when paired with bows and bright-color halter blouse or shirt dress create a chic casual look. For an afternoon visit to grandpa and grandma or family dinner, these vibrant colors and animated patterns are perfect.

Girls are pretty in pink. Make sure the pieces have delightful details such as tie-back waists, bolero edging and a ruffle or bow. Mix pink tees with denim jeans/skirts, pink corsets with flesta, ruff pinkie and tiered colorful tops. She'll look adorable and sweet in pastel pink skirt or pop-colored shirt with candy-colored prints.

Meanwhile, active little boys will love cargo pants, casual mesh shirts and bright-colored jackets. Khakis, camouflage shorts and sleeveless shirts make for comfortable wear under the sun, as are tees with cotton and upbeat designs.

Kids' Fair is on all Robinsons Department Stores 24 branches nationwide. Visit www.robinsonsdepartmentstore.com.ph.

ON MIKE: Big Joe halter top and Big Joe leggings. On Lorraine: Big Joe halter dress

ON THIS: Whatever Kids shirt and Ourhini denim jumper

How to deal with food allergies

FOOD ALLERGIES ARE AN OVERREaction of the body's immune system to a specific part of the food, usually a protein. Here is advice on how to deal with these annoying allergies, courtesy of The Medical City Ortigas Wellness, Pasig City.

Food intolerance is sometimes confused with food allergy. Food intolerance refers to an abnormal response to a food or food additive, and it is not an allergic reaction. It does not involve the immune system the way food allergy does. Lactose intolerance, for instance, occurs only because an individual lacks the enzyme to break down milk sugar for proper digestion.

Causes

Six foods cause 90 percent of food allergy reactions in children: milk, egg, peanut, wheat, soy, tree nuts (such as pecans and walnuts).

In adults, four foods cause almost all food allergy reactions: peanuts, tree nuts, fish, shellfish (most common are shrimp, crab, lobster; less common, mollusks).

Children will frequently outgrow an allergy to eggs, milk and soy. However, allergies to peanuts, tree nuts, fish and shellfish usually continue into adulthood. Both raw and cooked food can cause allergic reactions.

Symptoms

Signs and symptoms of adverse food reaction may include any or several of the following:

- Chest tightness, shortness of breath or wheezing
- Skin reactions such as hives, rashes, itching or flushing
- Nasal congestion or irritation, a runny nose or sneezing
- Itchy or watery eyes
- Intestinal symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, colic, abnormal cramps or diarrhea
- Itching/tingling/swelling of the lips, palate, tongue or throat

Other allergic diseases can be exacerbated by food allergies, atopic dermatitis or eczema can be triggered by food allergy. Asthma symptoms such as coughing, wheezing, or difficulty in breathing may also be triggered, especially in infants.

Severe reactions

Consuming food one is allergic to can cause a dangerous reaction called anaphylaxis. This can be fatal and needs urgent medical attention. Symptoms include:

- Feeling warmth, flushing, tingling in the mouth or scrotal, itchy rash (usually the first sign)
- Feelings of light-headedness
- Shortness of breath, difficulty of breathing
- Feeling of swelling or tightness in the throat
- Anxiety
- Bronchial or uterine cramps
- Vomiting and diarrhea
- Drop in blood pressure that results in a loss of consciousness and shock

Anyone with severe allergic reactions suggesting possible anaphylaxis must get emergency treatment immediately.

Diagnosis and treatment

An allergy/immunology specialist is the best-qualified professional to diagnose food allergies. Some tips:

- Avoid the food. Once you have food allergies, no medicine can make them go away.
- Read food labels carefully, it particular food proteins can have more than one name: Milk can be labelled casein or lactalbumin, and can be found in many products such as margarine. Egg products can be found in lecithin, artificial flavors and pasta. Talk to an allergist/immunologist about ingredients to watch out for.
- Ask about ingredients when eating out. "Picking out" the ingredient one is allergic to from a dish is NOT acceptable.
- Be prepared for emergencies. Those who have experienced anaphylactic reaction to a food must strictly avoid that food and know how to use emergency medications (injectable epinephrine and antihistamines). Better yet, wear a bracelet that describes the allergies.

Other things you can do

- Teach children with food allergies not to accept food from classmates or friends. Make sure teachers know of the food allergies as well.
- If you are susceptible to allergies, wear a medical alert ID at all times.
- Teach children to read food labels to understand what ingredients are in commercial food.
- Teach people around patients with food allergies to recognize symptoms of allergic reaction, particularly anaphylaxis.
- Patients and their families must keep epinephrine and antihistamines readily available.

Science for Better Nutrition

Programmed for protection

It seems how infants are born affects the development of their immune system.

"Breast milk contains good bacteria such as bifidobacteria which are especially vital to Caesarean-born infants as these bacteria help awaken and train the infant's immune system to be strong."

To more, the gut is just an organ for digestion. But did you know that the gut is the largest immune organ of the body? In fact, the gut holds 80% of the body's antibody-producing cells.

The development of the gut as an immune organ starts from the moment of birth. Recent research shows that its development is affected by how an infant is delivered into the world. And the influences the infant's health in later years.

Infants born through the vaginal route acquire healthy levels of friendly bacteria like bifidobacteria earlier than those born by the surgical mode known as Caesarean section. The earlier and larger presence of friendly bacteria in a newborn's gut helps develop a strong immune defense.

The "route" of the problem

An infant delivered vaginally comes in contact with his mother's bacteria in the birth canal. Which is why many vaginally-delivered infants have only 10 days to establish healthy levels of bifidobacteria in their gut. Unlike vaginal delivery, Caesarean delivery is less conducive to the growth of friendly bacteria in the gut because the infant misses out on the natural process of passing through the birth canal where contact with the mother's bacteria happens. Instead, the Caesarean-born baby is delivered surgically. Thus its exposure is limited to the sterile hospital environment. As a result, many Caesarean-born infants experience a delay in the development of healthy levels of bifidobacteria in the gut. For many Caesarean-born infants, it takes up to 6 months to have a dominant presence of bifidobacteria in their intestines. These good bacteria are needed to help awaken and strengthen the immune function of the infant's gut. And this slow appearance of good bacteria in the gut of a Caesarean-born infant makes the infant more prone to infections and allergy.

Benefiting from breastfeeding

Breast milk is the best source of nutrition for infants, not only does it contain all the nutrients essential for optimal mental and physical development but it also has the same nutrients that support the multiplication of friendly bacteria in the gut. Current technology has also confirmed that breast milk contains friendly bacteria like bifidobacteria, which can be easily passed on to a newborn through breastfeeding. Which is why mothers with Caesarean-delivered infants are highly encouraged to breast feed their newborn in order to quickly establish the good bacteria the infant needs for a healthy gut, thus, a strong immune function.

The pros of probiotics

According to the World Health Organization, probiotics are "live microorganisms which when administered in adequate amounts confer a healthy benefit on the host." This means having probiotics or friendly bacteria in our digestive system is definitely a healthy option as they promote the dominance of friendly bacteria in our gut as well as help fight infection and allergy. Given this, Caesarean-born infants can truly benefit from the expert protection of probiotics.

References
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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emerlie G. Velarde

Red carpet cuties

Hilde Hilton scanned this with her pocket size pet, remember? This week two more four-legged cuties took the spotlight on the red carpet in events held on opposite sides of the Pacific. For left, director Kenny Ortega arrives for the premiere of "High School Musical 3: Senior Year" at Cadet Center in LA Oct. 16 with his Yorkshire Terrier Marley. And Japanese actor Junichi Yamashiki is shown at left cuddling a baby pig during the opening date of the Tokyo International Film Festival Oct. 20. The actor starred in "School Days with a Pig." AFP

CHEER FACTOR

Opening This Week

Lukaret

Stars: Glydel Mercado, Johnson Takeda, Ralph Darell Mateo, Eiked Parson

Directed by Bribor Takeda

Described as a "kitsch cult," this "trash comedy" is set in a small, isolated town and focuses on a deranged spinster and carinderia owner (Mercado) who gets obsessed with a young nephew. Her "kind attention" leads to a series of gruesome murders. Reportedly to Julio Diaz Robinsons Galleria.

Nights in Rodanthe

Stars: Diane Lane, Richard Gere, James Franco, Scott Glenn, Christopher Meloni

Directed by George C. Wolfe

Tortured by personal problems, a doctor (Gere) and a suburban housewife (Lane) find solace in each other in a storm battered inn. Michael Redondillo of The Hollywood Reporter calls it "typical Nicholas Sparks fare...a soupy ... snorfel melodrama."

High School Musical 3: Senior Year

Stars: Vanessa Hudgens, Zac Efron, Ebenezer Coleman, Corbin Bleu, Ashley Tisdale

Directed by Kenny Ortega

After two TV-movies, the singing-dancing cooks of East High move on to the big screen. Says Gavin Bodes of entertainment.ie: "It's luridness, glitzy, syrupy and manic."

Living Hell

Stars: Johnathon Schaech, Erica Leerhsen, Joshua Rollins, Christine Allen

Directed by Richard Jefferies

Also titled "Dispatches," this sci-fi thriller follows a mask teacher (Schaech) as he tries to warn people about a zombie virus that feeds on light and energy. Really-Yours.com asserts: "Despite the B-movie feel the cast is solid."

The Chanting 2

Stars: Julie Estelle, Evan Sanders, Piet Pagan, Sofia Espinosa

Directed by Rizal Mantovani

Also titled "Rumthunk 2," this is about a young woman (Estelle) who battles the "dark side" of her power but must also contend with the members of an evil sect. Shatterpool.com says: Although "it may not be anything out of the ordinary ... it's stylish and suspenseful."

Sea Monsters 3D: A Prehistoric Adventure

Narrated by Sissy Award-winning actor Liev Schreiber

National Geographic's big screen film "Sea Monsters 3D: A Prehistoric Adventure" brings to life the extraordinary marine reptiles of the dinosaur age.

Exclusively at the Ayala Magnet Coca-Cola IMAX Theatre located at SM Mall of Asia in Pasay City starting today. Call 556-0161.

Radio-TV host still has to face censors board

By the Inquirer and Inquirer.net Entertainment Staff

IS PRIVACY A CORPORATE POLICY IN this giant TV network?

Case 1: Famed Filipino indie actor is contested by Network Exec, who offered ABC1 a management deal and a team-up with Poland leader. ABC said he had to consult Manager Friend, SIL submit. "Are you happy with the way MP is handling your career?"

ABC answered curtly: "Yes." And that was the end of that fishing expedition.

Case 2: Same network is booking Hot Athlete, who was "developed" by rival channel when he was still an unknown. Network asked whether he/she's so mediocre. He told PT he was surprised that fishing expedition.

RUSHES

Case 3: Same network is booking Hot Athlete, who was "developed" by rival channel when he was still an unknown. Network asked whether he/she's so mediocre. He told PT he was surprised that fishing expedition.

Wrong guess

"The Buzz" rush-quizzed an Inquirer front-page story saying that Angeli Pangilinan denied the rumored separation of her brother Wanda Seaa wife Sharon Cuneta. For the record, what Angeli denied was a "TV Patrol" report that claimed she tried to call Sharon and was given the cold shoulder.

Not off the hook

Although she's been suspended by ABS-CBN, TV-radio host Cristy Fermin is not off the hook, as far as the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board is concerned. Minitrax Lagumbay, board chair, told Madam Cristy Manasongan's complaint against Cristy Fermin will be heard by the adjudication committee this week. Fermin's suspension was the network's decision, not the board's."

Feedback from Lani

On Oct. 5, Lani Mercado sent a text message regarding a "Top of the Tabloids" item that came out in Bandera that day.

The item said: "Anak ni Sen. Bong Revilla, gusto na rene Mendiguen ang career. (Screwing Lani.)"

Lani wanted to know: "Are you pertaining to Jolo daughter? Isn't? She just gave birth on Sept. 30. Yeah and Husband? Umuwi rin ang mga yun."

Radio chatter: The item is a tabloid report, the reaction is ours. Lani has had to deal with a lot more than usual.

Bobot's angels

Director Edgar "Bobot" Mortiz, on the girls of his Saturday gag show on ABS-CBN, "Rumitan Ipiit"—Angelina Pangandiwan, Cristine Reyes, Roxanne Guinoo, Valerie Concepcion: "They are not comedians, but dramatic actresses who can do comedy. I'm very satisfied with their performance."

The competition

"I tell my beauticians, we are competing with ourselves, not with other beauty salons. If people say we're Judys, just ignore them," says Shirley Reyes, host of QTV 33's "Like and Style." "Mother" Ricky adds: "Ayaw ng ng competitors. I'm not concerned with what others are doing. Ako na lang ang gumaya at ako." The show airs 10 a.m. Sundays.

Settlement to follow

LONDON—Madonna's divorce settlement with her estranged husband Guy Ritchie has yet to be finalized, the singer's publicist said Sunday. The Sun and The Mail on Sunday report, that the two had struck a deal over their finances and property. The Mail also reported that they had agreed to a custody arrangement for their children— Rocco, 6, and David Banda, 3, who was adopted in Malawi in 2008. Madonna has a 12-year-old daughter, Lourdes, with Carlos Leon. AP

Those Palin skits

NEW YORK— Most people are checking out Tina Fey's brush Palin impersonation Saturday night later than Saturday night live. Fey's dead-on take of the Republican vice presidential candidate seems to be the pop-culture event of the campaign season, a landmark in how people watch television, and a peek into the future of a new media world.

Only one object of the people who have seen at least one of the skits satisfied is Fey. She on "Saturday Night Live." Most people have checked them out online or on a home theater, watched them on a digital video recorder or through video on demand, according to Integrated Media Measurement Inc., a research firm that measures media exposure through computer and mobile phone. AP

Secretly married

OTTAWA—Grammy-winning Canadian singer Molly Nutaki was secretly married over the summer in the second explosive on her last album, she revealed to Entertainment Tonight Canada. She and Demarais Castellos were hitched on July 19, she said. "I love it ... I just feel kind of free and relaxed and more in tune with crying out to be to someone," Nutaki, 29, said. She has a child, 4-year-old daughter Stevie, from a relationship that ended in 2005. AFP

Top of the talk shows

For those who missed last weekend's gabfests on TV (And why not are we?), if we are named:

- Korina Sanchez, asked how Ate Lawrence is different from pure boyfriends: "Magalang, malinis, mayroong konsiderasyon, di nag-e-take advantage, conservative." (Did she effectively describe Ate Korina with that statement?)
- Kris, on his relationship with Bimbo: "Parents-in-law ko na kami." (It used to be "Inaanay.")
- Dingdong Dantes, circumstances of breakup with girlfriend Jennylin: "Siyempre, dating tao. Sa amin, that's all that matters." (Meh!)

ANGELICA Pangandiman in "Banana Split"

THAT'S THE TROPHY! These pics are best seen in black and white because the trophy is in the exact color of a tongue. We get it, it's for singers. Musician Xiomara Blandino, left, is named Breakthrough Artist of the Year at the MTV Latin America Awards in Guadalajara, Colombian jeanswear Bree Sale Arrieta.

"Fine" doesn't usually cut it.)

- KC Concepcion, on news that parents Gabby Concepcion and Sharon Cuneta have made peace:

"Sa mahabaran ko po okay na sila. Siyang aming. Yes very happy sa magkasama sila 'yung maaring pagpapa-ko na maghiwa-wa kung aming mga nanaisin." (Huh? you morning pampapa [sorry.])

- Jasmine Curtis, on reports of a drinking habit:

"Maybe nakakakainom ng pa sa ang drinking among tinatawag na ating nanay po. Pag nag-out of po ko, nalilimpas yung mga magkakasama na kung anong mga nanaisin ang dinot? Hindi pag-nanay po, bridgeon kung gin-ang-ano ko." (Huh?)

- Joey de Leon, on panelsing up with Willie Revillame:

"Gusto ng pakiramdam ko. Mga anda just ok." (Thank goodness for one less negative vibe to the air.)

- Jolmer Gonzalez, on reconciling with Jolina Lapuz:

"Siguro na-feel ko na rin ako ko siyang high.... ang sarap ng feeling na hindi siya na pinag-usapan kung ano ang pinagdaanan niya." (Ala Aga ang Peabo?)

- Jennylyn Mercado, asked if she would allow Patrick Garcia to see their son KJ:

Sinabi ko lang po ito: "Actually there is a man for that method of reproduction ..."

- Sam Milby, asked if his breakup with Anne Curtis was for real:

"Nag-problema naman, we want to keep it to ourselves more but I can assure dahil ng mga ito, labas ng mga bata na, ang walang third party. Alalay lang alam kung ano ang dapat gawin." (Is that clear enough for you to know?)

+ Sam, on the chance of being together again with Anne:

"I really hope so because, you know, we have a lot of amazing memories and, of course everyone knows how I still feel for her." (Okay, stop na.)

+ Mika Lagman, to Judy Ann Santos, after she conducted a lawyer, not him, over swearing fest ABS-CBN contract:

"Nang pumunta nga pumipirma na MBS, walang attorney. Di ko naman nabalang sa nagpirma nam ... Sino ba ang attorney ni Juan? Hindi naman siguro dinemay ng condo 'pwera?" (My gut sag pill pala.)

- Jolina Magdangal, on explosive ex:

"It doesn't mean na binobalewala ko si Mo Mike, double At-ing po si tiyo, 30 years old na po ako. Pareho na po siguro ako mag-desisyon." (My gut sag pill ulit.)

+ Mike, after Judy Ann viewed him over the weekend to apologize:

"Sa amin, sa akin ka kakausapin? Hindi ang kinakapatan kong hindi ko tinitap na talaga ako sa labas. Hindi ko tinitap na si Judy, ang ang nagiging relasyonship ... Nag-sa na akong pagdalaw, para hindi makakita 'yung ibang pa." (Parang gulat pa, eno?) ("Starstruck," "The Buzz")

AT THE CINEMAS

GLORIETTA 1
1 MAX PAYNE
2 NIGHTS IN RODANTHE
3 CHANTING 2
4 KUNG

GLORIETTA 4
1 THE STRANGERS
2 TROPIC THUNDER
3 MAX PAYNE
4 EAGLE EYE
5 LIVING HELL
6 NIGHTS IN RODANTHE
7 BODY OF LIES

GREENBELT 1
1 MAX PAYNE
2 NIGHTS IN RODANTHE

GREENBELT 2
1 MAX PAYNE
2 NIGHTS IN RODANTHE
3 PINEAPPLE EXPRESS
4 THE STRANGERS
5 TROPIC THUNDER

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 NIGHTS IN RODANTHE
2 MAX PAYNE
3 LIVING HELL
4 THE STRANGERS
5 TROPIC THUNDER

AYALA CENTER CINEMA
1 TROPIC THUNDER
2 MAX PAYNE
3 ODE
4 144 FEET

MARKET! MARKET!
1 NIGHTS IN RODANTHE
2 LIVING HELL
3 CHANTING 2
4 MAX PAYNE
5 KUNG

TRINOMA
1 KUNG
2 MAX PAYNE
3 THE STRANGERS
4 TROPIC THUNDER
5 LIVING HELL
6 CHANTING 2
7? NIGHTS IN RODANTHE

AT THE MALLS

Glorietta
TOYOTA CAR DISPLAY
October 20-22, Glorietta Activity Center

Greenbelt
SHOPPING SPREE AT GREENBELT 1
Win exciting prizes and a P100,000 Mall Act every P500 worth of purchase at any Greenbelt 1 establishment
August 16-October 18

Alabang Town Center
FAMILY FIESTA: A Grooving Competition
October 13 & 20, 3:00pm, Activity Center

Ayala Center Cebu
THOSE FINE MEMORANDA EXHIBIT
October 12 to 27, Paseo Atrium

Market! Market!
STEP FORWARD'S "ENHANCEMENT 2008"
October 13 - 28, Activity Center

Christian's
Repertory Philippines presents Disney's BEAUTY AND THE BEAST
August 8 to November 18, 2007
For details, call 8727-1111 or log on to www.repertoryphilippines.com

Ayala Museum
I HEYOKO
Ongoing until 31 December 2008 at Museum Floor
For details, call Diana at 757-1117 or 21 local 34, or visit www.ayalamuseum.org

Tri Nanna
SALUD! Wine Mixologists Workshop
October 23, 6:00pm, 3rd Level Exhibit Area (near PowerMac)
HALLOWEEN TREATS at TRINOMA
October 30, Mall Hours, Activity Center

"Time to Fun!"
Watch
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First int'l award for legendary actress

Anita Linda considers Cinemanila Best Actress trophy as a 'birthday gift'

ANITA Linda plays title role in "Ruby"

By Bryanel San Diego Jr.

ANITA LINDA COULDN'T MAKE IT TO THE Cinemanila awards rites held Monday in Malacañang because that was her "gardening day."

"My hair wasn't fixed and my hands were dirty," she recalled.

Still, she said she was "overjoyed" to win Best Actress for her work in Adolf Alix Jr.'s "Ruby," which competed with six other films in the festival's Southeast Asian section.

Alix and Anita cried upon learning the good news.

"It's my first international recognition," she later told Inquirer Entertainment in a phone interview. "It's a pleasant surprise and a great birthday gift."

Turning 84

The legendary actress, who won a Movie Chats Award in 1951 (precursor of the Bituin) for "Biag," turns 84 on Nov. 23.

Alix in the IRA section, Khalo Maurer of Thailand's "The Love of Siam" won Best Actor; member Philippine entry Jewell Taruc and Rudi Dalio Antipuesto's "Confessional" won Best Film.

In the festival's main/international section, Israel's "The Band's Visit" won Best Film, RC Cayabyab's "The Amazing Truth about Queen Raquela" won the Dinah Jury Prize. Best Actress went to another Filipina, Angeli Bayani, for Lav Diaz's "Melancholia." Brunei's Mustakim won Best Actor for Scott Allen's "Lucky Miss."

Pinoy docum

According to festival director Tikoy Aguiluz, Monsalud is of indigenous descent.

In the Digital Lokal section, filmmaker Marilou Sanchez's "Inabasal" won Best Film, Jes Oliveros won Best Direction for "Capricornio," Carlo Aquino of "Capricornio" won Best Actor and Judy Ann Santos of "Dasa" won Best Actress. Raya Martin's "Next Attraction" won Jury Prize.

"After doing (three films), I no longer expect to win because my team and I make unpopular films," said Oliveros, who also won for the film.

"Capricornio" earlier competition, he said.

The trophies were handed out by President Macapagal-Arroyo. "I apologized to her because I was in jeans," Oliveros said.

Young cinema

In the Young Cinema section, Raheen Jover and Jimmy Jacquet's "Marlon" won Best Documentary. Anthony Jadlocon's "Bandang Papel" won Best Short Story, and Christopher Gozum's "Social Realism SMS 'Sms ko si Mother, a Story and a Wife Who Longs for Her Landscape with Figure" won the Manuel Bernal Award.

Independent Jose Lacaba is this year's recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Among the jury members are National Artist for Literature Bienvenido Lumbera (chair of the main section), Singaporean critic Wong Tok Chenong (Asian counter Asian chair), Lav Diaz (Digital Lokal Jury) and Bangkok film festival programmers Pimpaka Towira (Digital Lokal Jury members).

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4 CHANTING 2	8 BODY OF LIES

NOVALICHES

1 MAX PAYNE	3 MAG-INGAT KA SA KULAM
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2 MAX PAYNE	2 BODY OF LIES
3 MAG-INGAT KA SA KULAM	3 EAGLE EYE
4 SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PANTS 2	4 MUTANT CHRONICLES

LIPA

DASMARINAS

1 KULAM
2 MAG-INGAT KA SA KULAM
3 BURIED ALIVE
4 SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PANTS 2

IMUS

1 NIGHT AT RODANTHE
2 MAX PAYNE
3 MAG-INGAT KA SA KULAM
4 BURIED ALIVE

ANGELES

1 MUTANT CHRONICLES	3 MIRRORS
2 MAX PAYNE	4 BURIED ALIVE

STARMILLS

1 MUTANT CHRONICLES	4 MIRRORS
2 MAX PAYNE	5 BURIED ALIVE
3 EAGLE EYE	6 MAG-INGAT KA SA KULAM

BACOLOD

1 MAX PAYNE	1 IGOR
2 MAG-INGAT KA SA KULAM	2 MAX PAYNE
3 EAGLE EYE	3 MAG-INGAT KA SA KULAM
4 MIRRORS	4 EAGLE EYE
5 IGOR	5 3 KINGDOMS
6 MUTANT CHRONICLES	6 10TH

ILOILO

Naughty side of the stars

HALLOWEEN IS A GOOD excuse for mischief and pranks. In the spirit of the haunted seasons, stars share the naughtiest things they ever did. Happy Texas or Thinking! May we all get bewitched. Don't know what I wouldn't know.

GABBI CONCEPCION: "When I was 16, my brother and I hid under the bed. Alone it was dark, we lighted a candle. The bed was so low as it caught fire. We almost burned our ancestral house!"

SAM MILBY: "During summer break in high school, my best friend and I would always sneak out of the house. Curfew was 12 midnight for those under 18. I was 16 then. We would climb the top of the school building, jump to/from side my dad bike and go carry till 3 a.m. We got caught!"

OGIE ALCASID: "As a kid, I used to climb our water tank tower and look inside our neighbor's house. As an adult, I went to a beach in Barcelona, Spain, and had a great view of topless women."

MARIEL RODRIGUEZ: "I put Dulcolax on the drink of a guy classmate in high school. I could have died laughing as I saw it take effect on him."

HEATHER OCAMPO: "In grade school, I switched the cooks' female signs of the smallest room, till I remember was an enduring scream that made me run as fast as I can escaping the scene."

BEBE GUNO: "I went home from a shoot—bloody, bruised and with prosthetic makeup on. I stayed in my car until my kids came to greet me. They laughed excessively while the maids watched in horror."

KITKAT DE LEON: "When I was 6, I filled up a gigantic pail with shampoo till thereafter. Then I added powder. I told my mom I was cooking. Supposedly those long powder and the shampoo, proving formulated Hukbo ang memento ko!"

CHRISTIAN BAUTISTA: "I placed so much Tabasco sauce in a sandwich which I gave to my brother. I told him it was catsup."

MIRIAM QUIAMBAO: "When I was 16 and just received my student driver's permit, I was excited to drive my dad's car. He allows her was cool the shower, I took the car for a spin without his knowledge. I came back with a fender bender!"

DENNIS ROXAS: "I threw huge stones on the fiercest and largest of my classmates because they were rude to my mom. Nakipagsumbukan ako sa Egyptian schoolmates ko sa Kuwait because they were threatening Pinoys."

JENNY TOLENTE: "Muddy ako nanggulat ng tao. One time I didn't know the one I tried to scare had a hose silencer. Good thing nothing serious happened to him. Ang end-ing, akoang natakot!"

TINTIN BEDIOZA: "When I had tantrums as a kid, I would lock myself up in the bathroom and turn the shower on till it is hot. My mom got shocked because hanggang sa sala naririnig kaba!"

JESSY MENDIOLA: "Nakipag-chat ako sa isang lalaki. Nang nakita ko ang picture niya, nagulat ako. Siya pala ang kapatid ng isang kaklase ko. Nagpakilala ako na ibang tao. Nang nalaman niya ang totoo, nagalit siya at binato ako ng upuan sa ulo."

BARON GEISLER: "In Grade 5, I threw a tough bitch inside the ladies room to—mark the attention of my crush who was inside. I didn't know my teacher was also there. She had me suspended."

CRISTINE REYES: "When I was 8, my brother asked me to light his cigarette on the gas stove. Grabe! Muntag bang itinher namin. Hilabog-nakaing gawa!"

PERSONAL: Congrats to my soul DJ friend Jayson Villasoto and his (first) TV Drolle team for winning the Converge's inter-account basketball league. You're a winner on and off court, Jayo!

E-mail: sourcingfeedback@gmail.com

Barkadas Get Connected 24ever in OMG!

Globe's "O, Miss Donut" Day brought barkadas together in an event never seen before. Featuring Bamboo, Gigi, Gadgets, and even a Cell Phone Sale, OMG! We all things barkadas love do do together.

As a Games tournament featuring popular game Cabal kicked off the celebration at 10 a.m. on last Saturday. Other exciting activities such as eat-drinking, Nokia text jump, obstacle courses, and a celebrity dating game show barkadas to fill the 6,000 square feet venue at the SMX Convention Center beside SM MALL of Asia.

Crowds in the thousands also took advantage of the fantastic deals in the Cell Phone Sale where the MyPhone G27 was on sale for only P1,888. Other mobile phones for as low as P999 were sold out in just a few hours.

For the first time Globe also gathered celebrities from two major companies to simply have fun together. Members of Angelica Panganiban, Elmo Magalyo, Michelle Madrigal, JC De Vera, Gabe Mercader and Maxene Magalona partying together in celebration of Friendship. Pinoy Dream Academy stars Laarni Lozada, Rubby Dolan, and Miguel Mendoza also showed up the stage with them.

Throughout the day barkadas were able to try out and experience Globe's latest services such as Unlimited Friendster and Facebook, UFDBs and unlimited Chat on Yahoo!Messenger. They were also able to create their own barkada profiles on www.Globe.com.ph and share their stories, photos, and even upload video clips!

"Barkadas love to be connected with each other always and Globe is helping them do this through unlimited chat on YM and updates on Friendster through their mobile phones. It's fun, easier to use, and very cool to their lifestyles," says Mark Castillo, segment business head for youth marketing. "Globe also understands that friends need an affordable and fun way of communicating, that's why we're offering these together with our existing UnliTXT and SenderCall services both in the hourly rates."

Hot brands Postmodern, Imago, Calsilly, and Pedalman rocked the night away, which was a fitting end to OMG!. Globe's extraordinary whole day barkada grind.

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